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Trade and Industry

24 March 1978

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There are other ways of dealing with radio and tv interference... Britain is soon to adopt EEC limits on interference levels (page 642).

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

Four channels for North Sea oil revenue

Four areas for channelling future North Sea oil revenue, estimated at £4,000 million a year by the mid-1980s, are set out in a white paper launched on Tuesday.

1 Investing in industry by guaranteeing investment incentives, by expanding selective assistance, by supporting the work of the NEB and development agencies, and by tackling the long-standing problems of Scotland and the assisted areas.

2 Improving industrial performance by furthering the Industrial Strategy through the sector working parties and by reducing further the burden of personal taxation to improve work incentives.

3 Investing in energy by boosting investment into alternative renewable energy sources and by conserving existing energy supplies.

4 Increasing essential services and tackling employment problems created in the early stages of modernising manufacturing industry, by supporting the planned expansion of vital communications, by strengthening the present programme of reinvigorating the inner-city areas, by developing even more ambitious training and retraining programmes, and by providing more and improved social services.

The government intends to report annually to parliament on the progress made towards these objectives.

Lower north Atlantic fares given go-ahead

The new air fares agreement with the United States contained provisions vital to the United Kingdom, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said in a written parliamentary answer on Monday.

Negotiations in Washington, concluded on 17 March, resulted he said in an agreement on the introduction of new experimental low fares on a number of US-UK routes in addition to London and New York under conditions acceptable to both countries. A new charter deal, which completes the Bermuda 2 agreement, was also negotiated.

The vital provisions contained in the agreement were that the conditions of competition between UK and US airlines should be equal. In particular, the so-called 'ad-ons' for points behind and beyond the gateways involved would be the same for each side. In addition capacity restrictions would be filed and approved for a number of the routes.

The results of this new low fair experiment would be reviewed in the autumn, said Mr Dell. The UK's European partners and Canada could be included in the review. A multilateral meeting was envisaged in Ottawa for late November.

The new charter deal offered travellers and airlines much wider opportunities. Mr Dell said the agreement could have been still more liberal by allowing scheduled services to carry some passengers on charter terms in return for a percentage of what was called 'fill-up' on charter services. Unfortunately there were last-minute objections from the US charter carriers who obviously felt they could not stand the competition involved. The new provisions would last at least two years and gave much-needed stability to the market.

Leyland Vehicles expansion

What is described as the world's most advanced, automated diesel engine proving facility was inaugurated on Monday (20 March) by Leyland Vehicles – the new name for British Leyland's truck, bus and agricultural tractor operations. Michael Edwardes, chairman of British Leyland, said that the £7.8 million centre was the first major new facility to result from the £134 million so far invested in Leyland Vehicles.

Other major projects include a £32 million truck assembly hall and a £34 million engineering centre and test track – both at Leyland – together with a £17 million expansion of the parts division operation at Chorley and a £50 million expansion of the two Scottish plants at Bathgate and Albion, Glasgow.

Ever Ready prices restricted

Dry battery price increases by Ever Ready are restricted to 2 per cent maximum. The Price Commission's recommendations on the increases sought by the company are to be implemented in full by an order made on 20 March by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

India orders ships

Contracts have been signed for six 16 500 dwt cargo vessels to be supplied by Sunderland Shipbuilders, part of British Shipbuilders, to the Shipping Corporation of India. A grant of £51 million to the government of India for the purchase of these ships has been approved by Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development.

OVERSEAS

Indian visit opens doors for UK

India clearly wants to increase trade with the United Kingdom, said Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, in Bombay at the end of his five day visit to India.

There were three reasons why he was encouraged about India's potential for UK industry: the detailed progress that had been made on the 'shopping list' of industrial products which George Fernandes, Indian Minister of Heavy Industry, had handed to Prime Minister Jim Callaghan during his visit in January; the potential for joint ventures in third countries; and the possibility that the Indian government would shortly decide to liberalise its import policy.

Mr Dell was attending a meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee (IBEC) which was set-up two years ago to develop a more systematic approach to economic and commercial relations. With him were representatives of the CBI, the Indo-Pakistan Bangladesh Association and the new South Asia Trade Committee (SATC).

In addition to his discussions with Mr Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce and co-chairman of IBEC, Mr Dell met Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai, Mr Fernandes and other senior ministers.

After the IBEC meetings, Mr Dell said that information about India's specific needs and what British companies could offer had been gathered and brought together to augment the shopping-list. 'Now it is up to UK companies to get down to detailed negotiations which should lead to contracts', he said.

On joint ventures in third countries, Mr Dell said that while India had good access to a number of markets for major projects there were opportunities for British firms to supply specific technology. To improve lines of communication between Indian companies and their potential UK partners, machinery involving the Department of Trade, the CBI and the SATC had been set up to exchange information about potential projects.

The Indian government had already made some progress towards liberalising its import policy. It was considering recommendations of a high-powered committee to allow imports to help its new development programme.

'The Indians said nothing to me which deprives me of hope that they will take steps to liberalise their policy', Mr Dell said. 'With their balance of trade surplus they can certainly afford to be more liberal.'

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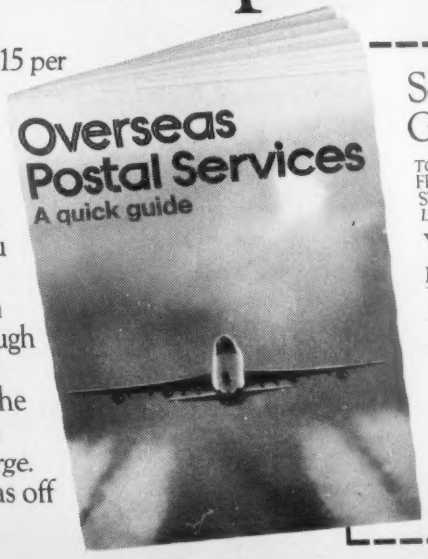

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Home news

Organic strategy for industrial improvement: Varley

When the present government came to power in 1974, it was faced with the increasingly urgent need to make radical improvements in the UK's industrial performance, Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told the Foreign Press Association on 15 March. The issue was not simply of encouraging some industries to do better; in certain industries there were problems of bringing about major structural changes. Furthermore, in considering the pace of change, the government could not ignore the need to minimise the economic disparities between different parts of the country.

In this situation the government decided that a new approach was needed to industrial policy, he said. The government deliberately rejected the approach of macro-industrial planning – a national plan approach – imposed on industry from above. Instead it sought to develop an organic strategy, which grew out of the analysis and recommendations which industry itself made at sectoral level. This new concept was launched in November 1975 as a tripartite initiative between government, the CBI and the TUC. The 1975 policy had three important features which had not been sufficiently appreciated outside the United Kingdom.

First, the government sought a strategy that did not concentrate only on immediate problems but also effectively tackled the longer-term needs of British industry. Second, the government had committed itself to giving priority to industry over other objectives, and its white paper introduced by his predecessor in 1974 set out its objective of the encouragement of a vigorous and profitable private sector alongside the public sector. Third, and most significant of all, the policy was based on the principle of co-operation between management, the trade unions and government, working as equal partners, Mr Varley said.

Inevitably much of the first period of this strategy was given over to defining the market targets and to identifying the obstacles to growth. But already there had been very promising signs of progress. In 1977, for example, the UK's share of world trade increased, and manufacturing investment, excluding iron and steel, rose by 12 per cent. Latest indications from industry were that an increase of this order would also occur in 1978 and that a further increase was likely in 1979. And he found it especially encouraging, since it was a sign of the confidence which others had in the UK economy, that the UK continued to attract investment from overseas.

He believed that the management of change was at the heart of the government's industrial policy. In the centre of London it was easy to talk of 'restructuring industry' and of 'adaptation', but at the end of the day he was faced with the hopes and expectations of working people up and down the country. In a modern industrial society change could no longer be thrust on men and women, at least not without causing unacceptable strains in the community. Mr Varley said that the need was to persuade people that changes were necessary and then to see that those who were affected by such changes were fully involved in their implementation. It was for this reason that the government's industrial policy was based on consensus and on partnership. It was for this reason that in the private sector no less than in the public sector government had to work closely with both sides of industry, promoting the growth of the industries of the future and sometimes moderating the impact of decline. This was not a policy that could produce instant results: progress could only be by agreement. There is no other way, he said.

Templeborough visited by industry secretary

Eric Varley (right), Secretary of State for Industry, in the steel billet shop at BSC's Templeborough plant, Rotherham, on 17 March. With him (from right) are chief executive Bob Scholey, trade union official Frank Mullett and departmental manager Derrick Green.

Promising start for industrial scholarship scheme

Financial support of some £90,000 has been promised by 40 companies and public corporations for a joint government and industry industrial scholarship scheme for students of exceptional ability. The scheme aims to encourage boys and girls to enter the world of industry through the engineering and allied professions.

An action committee, whose membership and terms of reference was announced on 13 March by Gordon Oakes, Minister of State, Education and Science, is to attract further support from industry and work out the details of the scheme. Oscar Hahn, a director of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd, is the action committee's chairman.

The scheme is to be launched with the award of about 100 scholarships for the academic year 1978-79. Each scholarship will be worth £500 a year to the successful candidate in addition to any other award from public funds and will not be subject to parental contribution. Applications will be invited from prospective scholars during this summer term.

Boys and girls will be encouraged to enter industry by the scheme offering a prestige

'open' scholarship, jointly supported by government and industry, the high status of which will be recognised by industry and commerce; demonstrating to the academic community the high regard in which study in the applied sciences should be held by them; and providing a financial incentive to exceptional students whose interest in their subject would justify this recognition.

Decisions on which students will be eligible for the scholarships and how scholars are to be selected will be made by the committee, but it is intended that the scheme be for students from all parts of the UK. Scholarships will be tenable on first degree full-time or sandwich courses at a UK university or polytechnic, in engineering and related subjects. Courses which include arrangements for industrial experiences at some point will be viewed particularly favourably.

Were the annual intake of 100 merely to be maintained, expenditure would rise to a steady state level (namely in the fourth year of the scheme) of £200,000 shared equally by government and industry. However, it is hoped by a further appeal to industry to allow for the expansion of the annual intake.

Half-day conferences on Industrial Strategy

In an endeavour to secure greater involvement of management and shop floor workers alike, the British Council of Productivity Associations is organising a nationwide series of half-day conferences on the Industrial Strategy entitled 'Cut yourself a bigger slice of the world market'. The Department of Industry and the National Economic Development Office are supporting this initiative.

Speakers at the conferences will include government ministers, senior civil servants, industrialists, trade unionists and members of Nedo and the BCPA.

The conferences are being held in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Cobham, Glasgow, Hull, Luton, Maidenhead, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Southampton and Wakefield during the period from 13 April to 23 June.

Further information is available from British Council of Productivity Associations, 8 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AQ, tel. 01-405 1023.

More high-speed freight train services

British Rail's Speedlink service is to be expanded in May, and again in October. It has been so successful that the range of services will increase from the present 32 to about 100 by 1981.

The Speedlink trains are computer-monitored and run to passenger-like timetables with guaranteed overnight transits between major centres. They are express freight trains with high capacity wagons moving at almost double the speed of their predecessors.

The nine Speedlink services originating at present within Eastern Region will be increased to 11 in May when new links are provided from Hull and Teesside and Tyneside, and to 14 in October when additional services are provided from Harwich Parkeston Quay, Teesside, and North Thameside.

In 1976 the government authorised a £12 million investment in 1000 new wagons which are now being delivered to British Rail. Last autumn it was agreed to spend another £67 million on new freight locomotives and 6500 wagons comprising 2100 coal-carriers, 1900 general purpose open wagons, 1900 steel carriers and 600 general purpose vans. All these vehicles are being equipped with air-brakes and are designed to run at speeds varying, according to load conditions, between 60 and 75 mph.

Speedlink offers nightly services from most industrial centres to the ports of Harwich and Dover. Continental railways are also re-equipping on these routes and new high-capacity covered vans of German design and construction are now entering service between the continent and the United Kingdom. This fleet now includes 280 wagons operated by two private companies on specific freight flows. In addition, Italian railways have recently placed an order for 600 high-capacity vans for use between Italy and the UK.

Government contract pay clauses amended

Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told parliament on 15 March that the government had authorised certain amendments to the pay clauses in government contracts which it was prepared to incorporate into contracts let since 8 February.

Since July 1975, he said, it had been the government's declared policy, approved by parliament, to take compliance with pay policy into account in the granting of public purchasing contracts, as in the granting of government financial assistance to industry.

The clauses introduced into new contracts with effect from 8 February, subsequently approved by the House of Commons, were designed to maintain that policy and to ensure that it was not eroded in circumstances where excessive settlements were reached after contracts had been awarded. In the light of representations made by the CBI and others the government had authorised certain amendments to these clauses with a view to clarifying and simplifying their operation, without detriment to this underlying purpose. The government was prepared to incorporate these amendments into contracts let since 8 February.

The clauses as amended broadly required any main contractor for work to a value of £5,000 or more to give an undertaking that his settlements since 1 August 1977 had been, and his future settlements during the currency of the contract would be, in accord with pay policy.

The clauses also required the main contractor to require the same undertaking to be given by any direct sub-contractor for work to a value of £500,000 or 5 per cent of the value of the main contract, whichever was the less, subject to a minimum of £10,000. Special arrangements would apply to certain very large contracts. The clauses required all such contractors and sub-contractors to provide on request such information as may at any time be needed by the Department of Employment to check compliance with pay policy.

In the event of non-compliance by the main contractor or any sub-contractor covered by the clauses the government would endeavour to secure re-negotiation of the excessive settlement. To this end, he said, it would first seek discussion with the parties with a view to resolving the matter without recourse to action under these clauses.

If, however, a breach of pay policy by a main contractor, or by a direct sub-contractor covered by the clauses, was persisted in, the government would have the right to terminate the main contract or to withhold any payments for increased labour costs that might be due under variation of price arrangements. This right was subject to certain safeguarding procedures, including, following termination of a contract, a right of arbitration should the government's good faith be in question. Where it was a sub-contractor who was in breach, then provided the main contractor took correspondingly appropriate action against the sub-contractor, the government would take no action against the main contractor, and would indemnify him against any loss necessarily incurred.

In taking such action, or requiring it to be taken by a main contractor against a sub-contractor, Mr Barnett added, the government would have careful regard to all relevant factors. These would include the significance of the breach, having regard to the number of employees and the amounts involved, either in itself or in its wider repercussions. The government would not take any action under these clauses which would cause wholly disproportionate damage to employment, industrial production or services. In the event that action had to be taken to terminate a contract, payment for work done prior to the certification of the breach would disallow an appropriate amount in respect of the element of profit; unavoidable cancellation charges would be met.

The government intended to keep these arrangements under review. In particular the government would seek further consultation with the CBI and others concerned in due course as to their operation in the context of any continuing pay policy subject to debate by and the authority of parliament. Such discussions would include the question of extending the scope of arbitration provisions. In the event of any modifications being made at that stage the government would be prepared for them to be incorporated in contracts current at the time, Mr Barnett concluded.

WDA investment package promotes 200 jobs

Nearly 200 jobs in factories and mills making toothbrushes, cardboard boxes, carpets, steel fabrications, wooden pallets and polyethylene film will be created with the help of a £569,000 investment package by the Welsh Development Agency.

Sixty-six new jobs are expected to be created over the next three years at the Cwmbran toothbrush factory of Libra Products, which is receiving a loan of £50,000 for new machinery and working capital.

Two businesses in Heads of the Valleys communities are getting loans for expansion. Tecweld, of Brynmawr, which makes and repairs dock gates, is getting a loan of £95,000 towards the cost of a new fabrication shop, and Ethylene Products, of Rhymney, a loan of £100,000 towards the cost of new equipment for the production of wide polyethylene sheeting.

The largest single investment in the package is a loan of £174,000 for Gwent Packaging, which is expanding into the manufacture of heavy duty cardboard containers at Bedwas. Chanter Carpets is having a £100,000 loan to expand production of tufted carpets at Newtown, Powys, and a Dyfed sawmilling business, Lampeter Timber and Trading is stepping up output of wooden pallets for industry with the aid of a £50,000 loan.

TV firm sets high standards of quality

To maintain a high standard of quality control this Cardiff based television manufacturer tests each and every one of the components supplied to it. Picture shows an inspector at National Panasonic's Pentwyn tv plant, checking the functioning of an integrated circuit, an important component in a TC-262 20-inch colour television set.

£6bn expansion planned by chemical industry

The British chemical industry intends to spend £6,000 million over the next three years on expansion in the UK, with an increasing proportion in Scotland. Results of the annual investment intentions survey conducted by the Chemical Industries Association indicate that the real upswing achieved in investment during 1977 is expected to continue to increase at a rate of about 14 per cent a year over 1978 and 1979.

This year the industry plans to increase investment in plant and equipment in the UK to £1,070 million. This represents an increase of 14 per cent in volume terms and 31 per cent in current money terms over the level of £820 million attained in 1977. The 1977 level itself represented a rise in real terms of 12 per cent and 29 per cent in money terms over 1976. Over the years 1978, 1979 and 1980 commitments, including working capital, will amount to £6,000 million in the UK alone. Expansion by British firms overseas will be in addition to this.

Views on measuring hearing loss called for

Views on when audiometry, the measurement of hearing ability, should be undertaken by management in industry are sought by the

Extended hovercraft rolled out

The latest addition to British Rail's Seaspeed fleet, the Princess Anne, has been rolled out of its hangar at the British Hovercraft Corporation, Cowes. The 56½ m craft is now positioned on the slipway ready for the fitting of its 6.4 m propellers, fins and pylons. It will then be jacked up and have its 30 tonne skirt fitted. After testing of engines and systems the 300 tonne hovercraft will be launched in early April to start sea trials prior to delivery to Seaspeed in May. Previously a standard SRN 4 hovercraft, the Princess Anne was lengthened by 17 m to achieve a 70 per cent increase in payload for a 15 per cent increase in operating costs.

Job measures programme to increase employment

A £300 million programme of new and expanded job measures from 1 April to counter the effect of changes to the temporary employment subsidy (TES) and raise the number of people supported by the special employment measures from 320 000 to over 400 000 by March 1979 was announced on 15 March by Albert Booth, the Secretary of State for Employment. He told parliament that the government had decided to continue the TES but with important modifications which had been agreed with the EEC commission.

Temporary employment subsidy

Under the new rules, recipients will have to show how they plan to make the jobs supported by TES viable by the end of a 12 month period of subsidy, or earlier. Such plans will also be required from firms who have entered TES this year.

Textiles, clothing and footwear firms applying for TES under the main scheme will be limited to 70 per cent of the total labour force in any establishment for the first six months, reduced to 50 per cent for the second six months.

At the same time that these modifications are made to TES, arrangements for the support of short-time working will be introduced for the textiles, clothing and footwear industries which provides support for those workers threatened by redundancy who would otherwise have been covered by TES. Those workers who in consequence are put on short-time will receive 75 per cent of their gross pay for each work day lost. Employers will be fully compensated for these costs. In addition, textiles, clothing and footwear firms who have exhausted TES will be able to apply for this support for up to six months. And it will be available for up to six months for those who exhaust TES in the period up to 31 March 1979.

Textiles, clothing and footwear firms applying for the supplement scheme in the period up to 30 September 1978 will be limited to 70 per cent of the total work force in any establishment. From 1 October applications for the supplement from all sectors of industry, including textiles, clothing and footwear, will be limited to 50 per cent of the work force in any establishment. There will be no commitment to provide the supplement to anyone entering the main scheme from 1 April. On timing Mr Booth said that provided the Employment Subsidies Bill was enacted in good time these alternative arrangements could be introduced before the end of May. On that basis, applications received from firms in textiles, clothing and footwear between 1 April and the date in May, will be subject to the 70 per cent limitation after the first three months of TES and to 50 per cent after six months from first receiving TES.

The TES will continue unchanged in Northern Ireland save where an applicant from the textiles, clothing or footwear industries is directly in competition with an establishment in the Irish Republic.

Small firms employment subsidy

From 1 July the small firms employment subsidy (SFES) will be extended to include establishments within the assisted areas and inner city partnership areas of manufacturing firms employing less than 200. This will support an extra 70 000 jobs. At present SFES applies to special development areas employing less than 50. Applications will be accepted on the new basis from 1 July, until the end of March 1979. Until 1 July it will continue on the present basis.

Job release scheme

The job release scheme (JRS) will be extended nationally from 1 April to provide an extra 21 000 jobs. The scheme enables people in their final year at work before reaching statutory pensionable age (65 for men, 60 for women) to give up their job to someone on the unemployment register. So far 23 801 people have taken advantage of this scheme.

At present restricted to assisted areas, from 1 April JRS will be extended to the whole of Great Britain. From 1 July the allowance for a married person with a dependant husband or wife will be increased to £35 a week with the present allowance of £26.50 continuing for a single person or for a married person whose spouse has an income of more than £8.50 a week. On this basis the scheme should provide an extra 21 000 jobs by the end of March 1979.

Health and Safety Executive in a discussion document 'Audiometry in industry' published on 14 March by HMSO, price 50p. The document includes a report by a working group on audiometry which gives clear technical guidance on how audiometry should be carried out, so that its usefulness can be evaluated and the cost and technical problems can be considered.

The executive say they welcome comment on any part of the report, especially on the value of audiometry in industry and the extent to which this justifies resources compared with other workplace health, safety and welfare activities;the reasons for the introduction of an audiometric programme and the frequency of examinations, bearing in mind cost/benefits; the practical issues of carrying out such procedures; the uses and social implications, particularly in the employment field, of the information provided by audiometry; and the availability of appropriate resources for its introduction.

The guidance sets out advice on procedures, equipment and techniques for measuring even acute hearing so that any loss of hearing ability can be quickly noticed and acted on. The report is concerned with guiding industry's own medical services in obtaining this information before employment, during employment, or both, but not for the purpose of diagnosing ear disease.

Comments on the report should be sent to Mr D. R. Dyke, Room 440, HSD-D3, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF, to arrive not later than 28 February 1979.

Credit-worthy women get fair deal . . .

Retailers who insist that women seeking credit provide male guarantors could find themselves losing their licences under the Consumer Credit Act, Lady Howe, deputy chairman Equal Opportunities Commission, told the Institute of Credit Management's annual conference on 15 March.

The Office of Fair Trading had accepted that a suitably credit-worthy woman could be just as good a guarantor as a suitably creditworthy man, and had stated its intention to regard evidence of the 'male guarantor' stipulation being imposed as an 'unfair or improper' business practice within the meaning of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Thus companies which have not yet rethought their policies in this matter may have their licences revoked or suspended or have difficulties in renewing them, she said. In addition the act specifically states in section 25(2)(c) that discrimination on grounds of sex makes a person or company unfit to hold a licence.

'Women are increasingly consumers in their own right in addition to being the purchasers of domestic appliances, food and clothing. Firstly, women now comprise nearly 40 per cent of the work force and 67 per cent of all working women are married. Secondly, women are entering the labour market at a faster rate than ever, and Britain has the largest proportion of 40 to 54 year old working women in the EEC. Thirdly women are earning more and contributing a bigger proportion of the family budget, and fourthly, one in five families have a women as the main or sole breadwinner,' said Lady Howe.

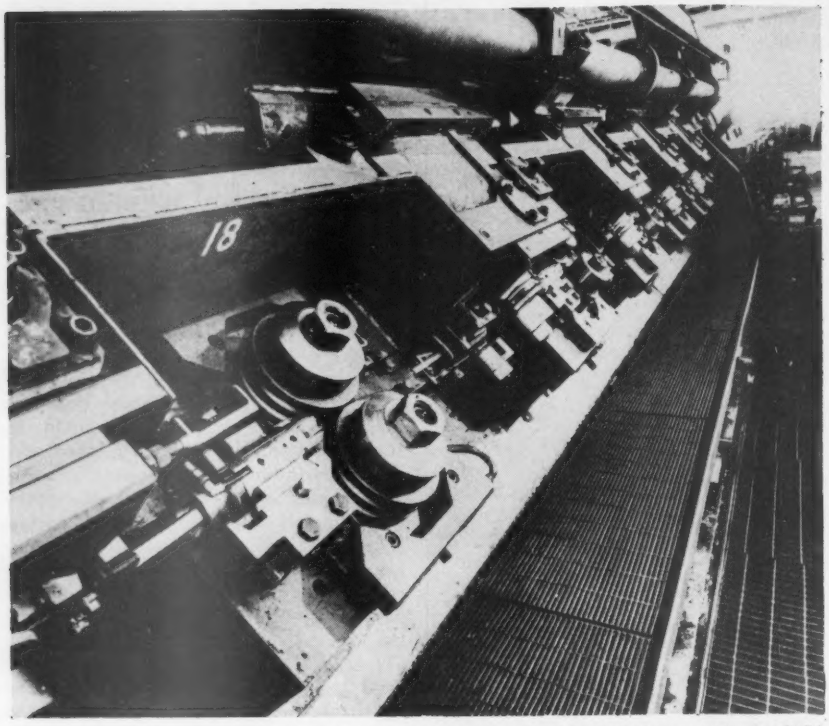
. . . and sex discrimination guides published

Two booklets, 'A Guide for Employees' and 'A Guide for Employers', published on 16 March, are available, free of charge, from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

They explain the rights of employees under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and the responsibilities of employers not to discriminate on grounds of sex in recruitment, promotion, training, company benefits and dismissal. They also explain how employers must word recruitment advertisements so that they can comply with the act.

The guides outline the procedures for taking a case to an industrial tribunal, and the powers of the Equal Opportunities Commission to help individual complainants and to enforce the Sex Discrimination Act.

Finishing mills for Cardiff steel plants



Hydraulic control systems and components made by Abex Denison Ltd, Burgess Hill, for GKN (South Wales) Ltd. The new rod mill has an annual capacity of 600 000 tonnes of wire rod and coiled bar. Almost all of the 400 000 tonnes/year output, of between 80 mm and 130 mm square steel billets from the continuous casting plant will be used in the new rod mill.

Better compensation for personal injury recommended

Improved 'no-fault' schemes for compensation for injuries or death from accidents and that manufacturers should be strictly liable for injuries caused by defective products are among 188 recommendations by the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury. These are presented in the commission's report published on 16 March by HMSO in three volumes, price £7.60, £3.60 and £3.60 respectively.

Compensation schemes proposed are: a new 'no-fault' compensation scheme for motor vehicle accidents on the roads, paid for by a levy of about 1p a gallon on petrol and administered by the state; an improved industrial injuries scheme providing higher benefits and extended to cover the self employed, commuters and additional cases of occupational diseases; and a new benefit of £4 a week, tax free, from the age of two, as an addition to child benefit and attendance and mobility allowances for all severely handicapped children, whatever the cause of their handicap. Mobility allowance, now paid from the age of five, to be paid from the age of two.

The commission recommended that action for damages in the courts should be retained but that there should be a shift in the emphasis of providing compensation – away from tort towards social security. Social security should be recognised as the principal means of compensation. The function of tort would become that of supplementing the no-fault system of social security.

Strict liability (without proof of negligence) should be introduced for: vaccine damage where any awards would supplement the new benefit of £4 a week for severely handicapped children and other social security benefits where they are paid; defective products, covering all products including aircraft, ships and drugs; rail transport, applicable to injuries caused by the movement of rolling stock; exceptional risks, such as flammable gases and liquids or dams; and those who suffer damage from research or clinical trials.

Waste-derived fuel plant to be tested at Chichester

A waste-derived fuel test plant which will try out a process for turning household and commercial rubbish into fuel pellets is to be built at Chichester, Sussex. The Department of the Enviroment are funding the construction and operation of the plant, which will cost about £250,000, and various equipment and services will be contributed by Newell Dunford Engineering Ltd, West Sussex County Council and Simon-Barron Ltd.

The plant is based on a process being installed in a mechanical separation plant for household rubbish currently being built at Tyne and Wear. It is being sited at Chichester waste pulverising plant.

Court Line report published

The inspectors' final report on the affairs of Court Line Ltd was published on 16 March. Two inspectors, James Comyn, (now Mr Justice Comyn) and Douglas Morpeth, were appointed on 23 August 1974 under the provisions of section 165 (b) of the Companies Act 1948. A third inspector, John Hamilton, was appointed on 30 September 1974. Their interim report was published on 30 July 1975. The final report was submitted in November 1977 and is available from HMSO, price £6.50 net.

A winding-up order was made against Court Line on 7 October 1974. The joint liquidators are Mr E. R. Nicholson and Mr F. S. McWhirter both of Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co, 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4U 3PD.

Commission given more time on Redfearn references

More time has been allowed for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the proposed acquisition by Rockware Group Ltd of Redfearn National Glass Ltd and on the proposed acquisition by United Glass Ltd of Redfearn National Glass Ltd. Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has agreed that the reporting period for both these references be extended to 15 April 1978 following representations from the commission that there are special reasons why the reports cannot be made by 21 March as specified in the references.

Merger proposals cleared

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Thomas Tilling Ltd and Liner Concrete Machinery Ltd

Electrical and Industrial Securities and C. F. Taylor (Holdings) Ltd

Official appointments

Gas Consumers' Council: Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Miss J. Arlett as a member of the West Midlands Gas Consumers' Council until 31 October 1980.

Transport Users' Consultative Committee for the North East: Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Michael Kellner as Chairman of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for the North East from 1 April 1978 until 31 March 1981.

Patents endorsed 'licences of right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'licences of right' on the dates specified.

2 March 1978

1302837 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to an arrangement of an engine-transmission unit in a motor vehicle.
1394426 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to a control device for a gearbox of a vehicle
1395217 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to a rear seat device for a vehicle having multiple uses
1422604 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
A mechanism, for example for moving the throttle valve of a carburetter
1425133 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to a device for controlling the feeding of fuel to an internal combustion engine
1453869 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to a vehicle suspension capable of correcting the trim of the vehicle
1458456 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to catalytic exhaust devices for explosion engines
1463253 Automobiles Peugeot and Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements in or relating to an electric switch
1467014 Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in or relating to an air distributing device for automobile vehicles
1014739 Akai Electric Co Ltd
Magnetic tape recorders
1138396 Akai Electric Co Ltd
Brake mechanism of magnetic tape recorder
1138397 Akai Electric Co Ltd
Tape drive control mechanisms for magnetic tape recorders
1138398 Akai Electric Co Ltd
Tape drive motor control arrangements
1280796 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Method of annealing wire
1402086 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Light emissive diode arrays
1460277 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Facsimile printer
1425477 Cannon Electric (Great Britain) Ltd
Improvements in or relating to connectors
1472343 Cannon Electric (Great Britain) Ltd
Improvements in or relating to electrical connectors for flat cables
1110307 Kenneth William Vigus
Self-steering axles for road vehicles
1293882 Consolidated-Bathurst Ltd
Method and apparatus for bonding thermoplastic materials and products thereof
1369183 Jacques Michel Marcel Torker
Evacuable stove hoods
1374281 Seperic
Improvements in or relating to thiazolinopyrimidin-5-one derivatives, process for their preparation and applications thereof
1490215 Institut National Du Verre
Method and apparatus for testing lenses

9 March 1978

1266353 The Post Office
Improvements relating to power supply equipment
1331228 The Post Office
Improvements in or relating to electro-optic apparatus
1351459 The Post Office
Pin for attaching an article to building fabric, and method for inserting the pin
1387279 The Post Office
Improvements in or relating to fluid filled cable
1435011 The Post Office
Crimping clips
1461907 The Post Office
Improvements in or relating to electromagnetic rotor and stator assemblies
1464466 The Post Office
Scanner
1030987 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Hydrostatic transmission
1308905 Linotype and Machinery Ltd
Improvements in folding apparatus for printing presses
1400062 Blau K.G. Fabrik Fur Kraftfahrzeugteile
Closure cover with pressure relief means
1438906 Mario Turatti
Snap switch particularly for direction indicators in motor vehicles
1460862 International Standard Electric Corporation
Testing and collecting device
1482002 Stoecklin and Cie
A process for manufacturing paper in which the white water cycle is substantially completely closed

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on patent form 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Government sales

4–6 April 1978 – Vehicles

Location
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers
Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham (0602 54272)

Commercial vehicles including heavy duty trucks and tractors by AEC and Leyland, Bedford trucks, trailers and Morris trucks with welding equipment. Saloons, estate cars, minibuses, light vans and Land-Rovers.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 40p, postage 15p (Postal Orders only).

Britain's DMLS prepares for Montreal decision

A special conference has been convened by the International Civil Aviation Organisation to take place in Montreal on 4 to 21 April in order to adopt a new international standard as a replacement for the present instrument landing system (ILS) during the 1980s. The choice is between Britain's doppler microwave landing system (DMLS) and a time reference scanning beam system offered by the United States. Britain's landing system has been tested at a different airport every month in a bid to establish its claim for world wide adoption. Seen here at Kjevik Airport, Norway, it is a simple yet effective monitoring system that requires no special installation and only optical alignment. It can be ready for use within 48 hours and can safely handle anything, from a jumbo jet to a light aircraft, descending in curved paths over a wide range of angles – something which the present ILS cannot do. DMLS has already been tested successfully at Brussels, London's Gatwick and Stansted airports, in Norway, Tehran, Manchester and at Berne in Switzerland.

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1978

4 April 1978

View Days: Day preceding and morning of sale

Location: Department of the Environment
Property Service Agency
Supplies Stores
India Pavilion
Exhibition Grounds
Wembley, Middx.
Tel. 01-903 2508

Description of Goods: Office and Miscellaneous furniture etc.

Auctioneers: Messrs. Hollingsworths
Westcombe House
56/58 Whitcomb Street
Leicester Square
London WC2H 7DR
Tel. 01-839 1875

Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available direct from the auctioneers price 10p

Listeners and viewers to get more protection from radio interference

Household and other electrical appliances and fluorescent lighting can interfere with radio and television reception. New regulations are to be introduced shortly which will give effect in the UK to EEC directives setting limits on the interference to broadcast reception from certain electrical equipment. Great efforts have been made to provide reasonable protection for the listener and viewer without placing too heavy a burden on the electrical appliance manufacturer. It is hoped that matching user regulations can be made at the same time.

In the field of radio interference preparation for international harmonisation has been going on for many years in the International Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR). This is a special committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission which was formed in 1934 to make recommendations for the standardisation of radio interference measuring equipment, methods of measurement and limits of interference.

The relevant CISPR recommendations are included in two EEC directives which were completed and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 9 November 1976. The first, 76/889/EEC, relates to radio interference from household and other electrical appliances causing similar interference and the second, 76/890/EEC, to interference from fluorescent lighting equipment. The official texts of the directives were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L336 of 4 December 1976 and were modified in L105 of 28 April 1977.

The provisions of the directives are not entirely new and very similar requirements have been necessary in this country for a great many years for the protection of broadcast sound radio and television reception from harmful electrical interference. The UK technical committees of the British Standard Institution (BSI) have participated fully in the work of CISPR and have broadly speaking maintained the relevant British Standards in line with CISPR recommendations. Although existing UK regulations concerning interference from electric motors now need updating to meet the requirements of the directive the provisions of British Standards on measuring equipment, measuring methods and limits of interference have been maintained in line with CISPR recommendations and have been available in the UK for many years.

The purpose of the EEC directives is to harmonise the regulations of member states relating to radio interference and so to abolish technical barriers to trade in which the sale of goods in another country can be prevented or delayed by real or alleged failures to meet the technical requirements of that country. It is not surprising therefore that the process of agreement on the terms of the directives has involved a certain degree of compromise by the participating countries and thus eventually some change in their own regulations. By the terms of the directives each member state is required to amend its regulations to conform with the relevant requirements not later than 18 months after their adoption.

The clear need for these allegedly complicated and sometimes quite expensive measures for the protection of radio reception, as far as the household appliance directive is concerned, lies mainly in the effects of interference on broadcast sound radio and television reception. For example for reasonable interference free reception the voltage of the wanted signal at the input to a television receiver must be about 500 times greater than that due to an interference from a household appliance. The voltage due to the household appliance can usually be reduced to about one-third of its unsuppressed level by fairly simple and inexpensive means such as the addition of a capacitor or a small choke to the appliance, but to increase the wanted signal voltage by the same factor would require an increase of transmitter power of about 10 times. A 250 kW transmitter would need to be increased to 2.5 MW for the same effect on reception as that achieved by simple suppression measures. Many appliances need greater suppression; some requiring reduction in their interference levels to one-twentieth or even one-thirtieth of the unsuppressed level. The equivalent increase of transmitter power in these cases for the same appliances would be from 400 to 900 times.

Transmitter powers within the UK could not be increased to obviate the need to suppress electrical appliances without equivalent increase in the power of all transmitters throughout Europe and perhaps the world since for most broadcasting services the range is defined largely by interference from other transmissions on the same frequency. This would clearly be grossly uneconomic. It is also inevitable that the listener and viewer furthest from the transmitting aerials which serve them, will have lower signal level than those near the transmitter.

Another means of providing a high level signal at the edge of service areas would be to restrict the areas of coverage by providing a larger number of transmitters. This policy is already followed in order to 'fill-in' areas such as valleys which are screened from the main transmitters. However to extend the practice to reduce service areas generally would require a large number of transmitters and the allocation of a large number of additional frequency channels which are urgently needed by other services.

The limits of interference specified in the directives have been derived taking into account these and other considerations in work carried out in, and the views expressed by, many countries and international bodies such as the International Radio Consultative Committee of the International Telecommunications Union, CISPR, and the European Broadcasting Union. In all these activities the views of equipment manufacturers on safety, cost, weight and size of suppression equipment has been given very serious consideration.

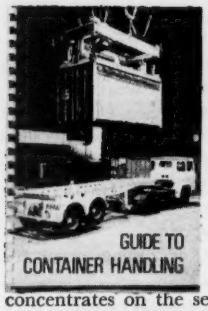
It is clear that some suppression measures are necessary. The fair distribution of costs between the consumer as a listener or viewer on the one hand and as a user of electrical equipment on the other is controversial. In practice the result is that for receivers in good condition with good aerials in areas of adequate field strength, viewing and listening should be possible without serious interference. The limits are not designed to protect listeners and viewers, beyond the nominal transmitter service range, or those with inadequate or faulty installations.

A more detailed treatment by the Home Office of the effects of the directives on UK legislation is to be issued to accompany the new regulations.

Measuring the interference power from a domestic electrical appliance using a ferrite clamp.

New publications

Containerisation for the layman



As containers continue to appear on more shipping routes, so more of those engaged in the shipping industry must become familiar with the logistics and terminology of this method of moving cargo. A recent publication, 'Guide to Container Handling', concentrates on the sea transport aspects of container handling and sets out to give a broad outline of the construction of containers, and their handling on board ship and in port. It also includes descriptions of the ships and terminals themselves, and is rounded off by a section on documentation, and a brief glossary.

The concise text is well supported by photographs and diagrams. There is a list of container ports, which gives only brief details. (Those requiring more information should refer to the comprehensive directories which already exist in the same publisher's 'Guide to Port Entry', or the more specialised 'Jane's Freight Containers' and 'Containerisation International Yearbook'.)

This new title, then, is a useful introduction to the topic for the non-specialist, covering the important stages in the handling of a container, without overwhelming the reader with too much quantitative technical detail.

Guide to Container Handling. Shipping Guides (Services) Ltd, Shipping Guides House, 75 Bell Street, Reigate, Surrey. 1978. 68 pages. Ringbound. £5.75.

Obstacles to economic stability

'A study of the obstacles to stability' is the subtitle of an important new survey and analysis of our present economic environment and its origins. Its distinguished author, A. T. K. Grant, reminds us in his introduction, 'for almost the whole of the period 1932-51, bank rate had been at 2 per cent . . . in 1976 . . . it touched 15 per cent'. This major change in the economic landscape brings with it a disturbing new feature: a loss of predictability.

Starting with an analysis of the accepted objectives of economic policy that have to be reconciled, the author goes on to the main working features of the financial system, and then examines in some detail developments affecting the financial structure over the last 20 years. Under the subheading 'Financial lame ducks and some others', Mr Grant gives brief consideration to a number of celebrated specific cases of financial collapse – from Rolls-Royce in 1971 to more recent cases – and goes on to discuss causes and consequences.

His examination of the position of public and private enterprise in a mixed economy leads on to the question of the restructuring of the domestic financial system. And in the final chapter, 'Present needs and future patterns', there is a brief summary of possible outcomes.

The book is readable in style and will be of interest to all concerned with our economic situation.

Economic Uncertainty and Financial Structure, by A. T. K. Grant. The Macmillan Press Ltd. 1977. 234 pages. £10.00 (ISBN 0 333 23081 7).

World economy and environment: the future

Since 1970, environmental concerns have received increasing attention both at national and international levels. And a recent study on the environmental aspects of the future world economy includes, as a principal feature, a set of alternative projections of the demographic, economic and environmental states of the world in bench-mark years 1980, 1990 and 2000.

The future is analysed in areas such as feeding the rapidly increasing world population, the adequacy of mineral and energy resources to meet the demands of accelerated development, the impact of pollution on economic growth and development, and other problems arising in the course of reducing the income gap between rich and poor regions of the world.

The detailed technical annexes include the model of the world economy described in the report, in conventional equation form.

The report is intended to present the preliminary results of a study made under the auspices of the United Nations, and as such provides useful data for those involved in, for example, multinational businesses or agencies that deal with problems of economic development.

The Future of the World Economy, a United Nations Study, by Wassily Leontief, *et al.* 110 pages. Oxford University Press, New York. 1977. £7.95 (ISBN 0 19 502232 7).

Ship's bridge design

The Department of Industry's 'Code of Practice for Ship's Bridge Design', a loose-leaf publication of 161 leaves, has recently appeared. Copies are available from The Library, National Maritime Institute, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0LQ, price £15.00, post free.

Promotion techniques in British industry

In his preface to a recent survey published by Industrial Market Research Ltd, Aubrey Wilson writes: 'Few firms have considered, let alone adopted, promotional techniques which could be regarded as even mildly unusual or innovative.' One of a developing series, his 'How British Industry Promotes' adopts a 'broad brush' approach to establish what precisely is conventional wisdom as far as promotion is concerned in British industry. It also identifies specific promotional activities which require further in-depth research for later publication.

The survey is based on 228 questionnaires that were returned from manufacturers of industrial products. Although the authors would not claim them to be a completely balanced cross-section of British industry as a whole, they certainly represent a significant body of practice among medium-sized and large industrial companies (mostly over 100 employees).

The 63 statistical tables that have been derived from the information collected are clearly presented in an oblong format, and cannot fail to draw the attention of anyone involved with product promotion.

How British Industry Promotes, by Susan Gentry and Leslie Rodger. Industrial Market Research Ltd, 17 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LN. 1978. v, 88 pages. Ringbound. £7.50 (ISBN 0 906142 008).

The books reviewed above – and many other business books are available immediately from stock at these booksellers.

THE BUSINESS SCHOOL BOOKSHOP
Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA 01-723 3902

ALAN ARMSTRONG ASSOCS LTD, BOOKSELLERS
12 Castle St, Edinburgh EH2 3AT 031-226 4201

New products

ICL adds to its computer range

International Computers has announced three more models in its 2903 range of computers. The 2903/25, 2903/40 and the 2904/50 join the three existing models, says the company, to provide a comprehensive range of systems with a greater potential for growth and the development of more sophisticated applications. These new models offer additional facilities, both hardware and software, to give greater communications capability.

Larger of the new models can now support more than 100 interactive video terminals with the addition of a new multi-line communications coupler. The introduction of two new transaction processing systems means that users can progress from a simple on-line system to multiple interactive on-line systems capable of initiating and controlling jobs from remote terminals.

The addition of further facilities for interchange of data between other ICL processors such as 1500, System Ten, 7500 and 2900 strengthens the role of ICL's 2903 range in distributed processing applications. The use of technology from the 2950 system provides additional peripheral connectivity together with more cost-effective peripherals, says ICL, and this gives a clear path for 2903 range users wishing to grow to the more powerful 2950.

First customer deliveries of the new 2903 range models are expected to be made next month. A large proportion of the 2903 range output from factories is earmarked for export and ICL aims to sell more than £200 million of 2903 range systems during the next two years.

Further information: circle 487

Power chuck with constant grip

A powerful and consistent grip, which is maintained against the effects of centrifugal force throughout run-up to maximum speed, is claimed for a high-speed power chuck developed by Pratt Burnerd International Ltd.

Designed to exploit the potential of the new generation of high-speed numerical control lathes, the chuck is the first of a range that will cover body diameters from 160-500 mm, each with a suitable speed rating. It has a nominal outside diameter of 270 mm and a maximum speed rating of 5000 rev/min. It is a three-jaw chuck with an open centre, 60 mm in diameter, for bar work. The maximum initial static grip, set by the operator, is 27 kN (2770 kgf) per jaw. The gripping concentricity of the jaws is highly accurate, repeating to within 0.025 mm.

Further information: circle 488

Bullet resistant screen for pay counters

A bullet-resistant screen and cash-transfer system incorporating a high level of protection against armed robbery has been developed by Aluminium Systems Ltd.

The Rotasec revolving cash-transfer tray is set flush with the counter top and fits over a chamber containing a series of metal fins. Bullets hitting the tray penetrate its aluminium shell but have their energy expended by the fins and are trapped.

Assorted weaponry, including revolvers,

Stainless steel tables in flat packs

G. F. E. Bartlett and Sons Ltd. have designed a new rugged range of stainless steel tabling for caterers, general commercial and laboratory users which will be marketed in flat pack form complete with instructions for rapid assembly. The 850 mm high tables, manufactured in several combinations of widths and lengths, are specially constructed with hygienic reinforced stainless steel worktops with a choice of undershelves in either stainless steel or galvatite. Mounted on black nylon coated legs with adjustable feet, the tables can also be supplied with braked castors for mobility. Drawers with stainless steel front panels are available as an optional extra.

Further information: circle 490

Tractor-based shunters work dock-yards

Two agricultural tractor-based shunters have been delivered to Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority. The shunters, based on Ford 6600 two-wheel drive tractors, are used to move railway trucks in areas where rails are sunk into the surface. They were converted by Sturdiluxe Ltd of Durham and are built to individual requirements. Further information: circle 489

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

shotguns, sub-machine guns and a rifle with a 200-grain silver-tipped bullet, has been fired at it without any damage to the rear face of the equipment.

Bullets fired at the Arrolok laminated polycarbonate screen incorporating a speech box are said to be held in the laminate without causing fragmentation.

Further information: circle 491

Keyboard speeds typing with grouped keys

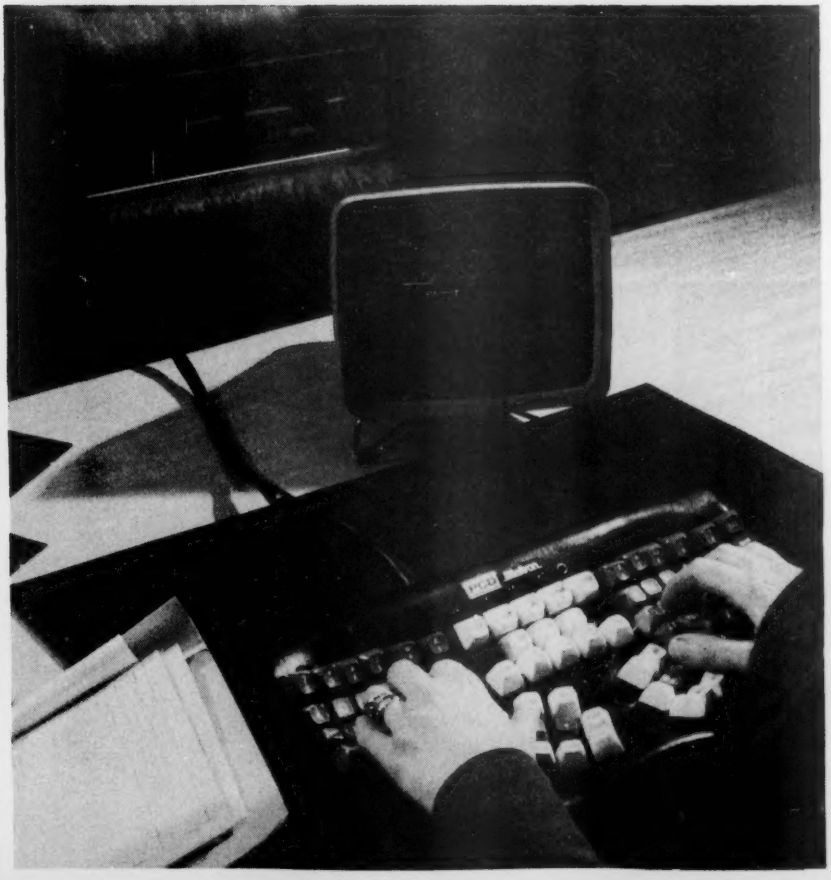
This typewriter keyboard is claimed to increase typing speeds to up to 100 words per minute and accuracy by as much as 40 per cent by reducing the movement of fingers across the key. Keys are positioned in groups, instead of lines as on a conventional typewriter while the key heights are designed to fit the varying lengths of fingers. The PCD-Maltron keyboard is seen here linked to a word processing unit and a visual display that shows the words as they are typed. Any error can be corrected immediately on the keyboard and the copy is then recorded on a digital disc unit. Once recorded, an automatic typewriter will process copies at a rate of 130 to 300 words a minute or more.

Further information: circle 492

Printouts from microfilm

A new enlarger-printer from Imtec Equipment gives engineering designers the option of printing from microfilm to a maximum format of 841 mm by 1189 mm. The printer, Imtec AO, represents a major technological advance in scale and quality of microfilm printout by providing full-size working and production drawings without the loss of the option to print smaller and more economic reference prints on the same machine. The machine offers infinitely variable enlargement ratios from 7.4 times to 30 times. Conversely maps and drawings can be scaled down and reproduced: details from a second drawing can then be overprinted producing traceable results that might take many days of work by skilled draughtsmen.

Further information: circle 493



Miniature recorder reads pulse

When held to a patient's wrist, this miniature electronic recorder presents a rapid and accurate illuminated display of the pulse rate. The Pulsaid, developed by Techcare of Harpenden, is held between the first and second finger, so that the pulse can be felt manually whilst being read automatically. With it doctors and nursing staff are provided with a fast beat-to-beat reading, assisting in the detection of pulse rate variations and abnormalities. The Pulsaid unit weighs only 60 g when fitted with a 6 V battery and will normally provide several thousand readings of pulse rate. Left and right handed versions of the unit are available.

Further information: circle 494

Technology news

Requirements board set up for electrical engineering

An electrical technology requirements board has been set up by the Department of Industry to fund research and development in the electrical engineering industry. Chaired by Timothy Sallitt, director, Hawker Siddeley Group Ltd, the board will cover such products as motors and generators, transformers, switchgear, cables and accessories, domestic appliances, and miscellaneous electrical equipment including lamps and batteries.

Major objectives will be to identify those areas which will most benefit from additional research and development, so as to promote technological innovation and to increase the application of known technology. In this way the board will aim to contribute to improved product quality and performance as a means of increasing exports and reducing import penetration. Policies will be co-ordinated with the views of the relevant industrial sector working parties and other interested bodies.

Independent members of the Board are J. Banks, BICC; C. H. Flurscheim, consultant; R. Gales, Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board; H. H. W. Losty, GEC Ltd; D. Mackay, Hoover Ltd; K. Taylor, British Rail; and Professor J. E. Thompson, Cardiff University. The first meeting will be held on 4 April 1978 in London.

Applications are invited from private companies as well as research organisations, for financial support on research and development projects, usually on a co-operative basis, in any of the board's fields of interest. Inquiries should be addressed to: Dr L. Goldstone, Executive Officer/Secretary ETRB, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1, tel. 01-211 3450.

Development continues on Rolls-Royce engines

A series of new jet engines with a common basis of advanced components is under development at Rolls-Royce. Initially two commercial applications are being evolved to suit business jets and 100 to 130 seat transport aircraft.

The RB 401, at 24.5 kN thrust, would be a successor to the Viper engine which is in extensive service in trainer and strike aircraft as well as business jets. Two demonstration RB 401-06 engines have been running since December 1975, and the production version, the RB 401-07, was tested in November 1977.

Following a general review of the programme, and a further assessment of the market potential for an engine of this size, Rolls-Royce is to continue development of the RB 401 engine to meet potential customers schedules. A full altitude performance survey and further testing on the aluminium lightweight thrust reverser system are included in this year's development programme, as well as noise calibration and general performance development tests. Endurance running will be accelerated during 1978.

In addition to establishing the RB 401 as a candidate for new and derivative business jets, this programme is contributing to the definition of the RB 432, at 71 to 80 kN thrust, a Spey replacement for 100 to 130 seat aircraft.

RB 401 is an effective demonstrator for the RB 432, which is of the same basic core configuration at a larger scale. The fan is scaled for the by-pass ratio suitable for a low noise level successor to the Spey engine in short-haul civil airliner use. Preliminary design of the RB 432 has been started.

New light on engine performance

Using a laser Harwell scientists working on the internal combustion engine project have achieved what they believe is the first successful measurement of fuel/air motion within the cylinder of a running petrol engine. The experiment concluded the first year of the project, which is supported by the Mechanical Engineering and Machine Tools Requirements Board of the Department of Industry.

An understanding of the fuel/air mixing process is acknowledged to be a crucial factor in the design of more efficient and environmentally acceptable petrol and diesel engines.

The experiment was carried out on a research engine installed on a test bed at Leyland Cars. Problems that the scientists had to overcome included: engine vibration; the presence of liquid fuel on the inner surface of the viewing window; stray light, scattered or emitted from inside the engine cylinder; the electronic sorting, storing and retrieval of data arising from different sectors of the engine cycle.

The overall aim of the project is to develop a range of instruments for making detailed studies of the complex processes that happen inside internal combustion engines.

The automotive industry regards such instruments as important aids in the design of vehicles with lower exhaust emissions, lower fuel consumption and better driving performance.

In a separate study optical signals have been obtained from inside the cylinder of a motor-driven diesel engine, in preparation for a study of a production diesel engine in collaboration with Perkins Engines.

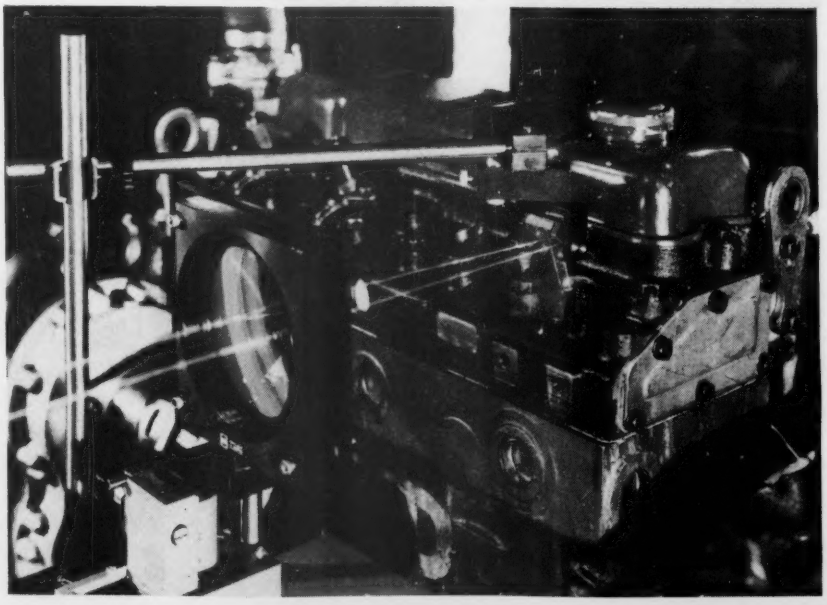
In another section of the project, a detailed study has been made of air motion within a transparent manifold on a motor-driven petrol engine, in association with Leyland Cars. The prospects for extending the study to a firing engine appear to be very good.

In addition to instruments for measuring air motion, progress is being made on laser-based techniques for the simultaneous measurement of fuel-droplet sizes and fuel-droplet velocities inside engines; and laboratory demonstrations on steady flames have confirmed that laser-Raman scattering shows distinct promise as a technique for measuring the composition and temperature of gases and vapours inside engines.

Advice on the direction of the work is provided by a panel of senior engineers representing CAV, Chrysler (UK), Ford (UK), Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck and Bus, Perkins Engines, Rolls-Royce Motors, SU Fuel Systems, Zenith Carburetters, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Industry.

CAV, Leyland Cars and Perkins Engines are involved in close and detailed collaboration on the demonstration experiments.

Close up view of the laser beams entering a motor-driven diesel engine at Perkins Engines.



Parliament

Monday, 13 March

Trade policy

Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what steps he was taking to increase Great Britain's share of world trade against a background of increasing world protectionism.

Mr Meacher replied that it was the government's policy to widen trade opportunities, while firmly resisting unfair practices of others; and to support the efforts of all Britain's exporters.

Balance of trade

Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was his revised estimate of the balance of trade in 1978.

Mr Meacher said that he would expect there to be a further significant improvement in our visible balance in 1978, following the improvement of £1,900 million in 1977.

Visible trade deficit

Tim Rathbone (Lewes) asked for a list of the percentage figures for each of the years 1973-77, indicating the ratio of the United Kingdom's net visible trade deficit expressed in £ sterling, with: (a) the rest of the EEC and (b) the rest of the world excluding the EEC.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

PROPORTION OF UK's VISIBLE DEFICIT
(balance of payments basis) %

	With EEC (a)	With non-EEC (b)
1973	50	50
1974	39	61
1975	75	25
1976	59	41
1977 [1]	104	–4

[1] In 1977, there was a small surplus on trade with non-EEC countries. The ratio to the total visible deficit has been quoted with a minus sign.

Trade deficit with EEC

Neil Marten (Bambury) asked what was the trade deficit with the EEC, at an annual rate, based on the last available three months.

Mr Meacher said that the visible trade deficit with the EEC on a balance of payments basis in the fourth quarter of 1977 was £1,764 million, at an annual rate.

Trade deficit with Japan

Roger Moate (Faversham) asked what were comparable figures for the last 12 months for which figures were available, for the visible trade deficit between the United Kingdom and the EEC and between the EEC and Japan.

Mr Meacher replied that the EEC visible trade deficit with Japan in the year to the third quarter 1977 was just over $5 billion. The EEC visible trade surplus with the UK in the same period was $1.7 billion.

Trade with original six

Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the visible trade balance of the United Kingdom with the original six EEC countries in goods, other than food, feedingstuffs and oil in 1970, 1976 and 1977, respectively.

Mr Meacher said that our crude trade balance with the original six EEC countries in goods, other than food and live animals and petroleum and petroleum products, was in surplus by £200 million in 1970 and in deficit by £1,168 and £1,470 million in 1976 and 1977, respectively.

Trade balance with individual EEC states

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked for a list of those EEC countries with which the United Kingdom currently had a favourable trade balance and those countries with which the United Kingdom had an unfavourable trade balance; and by what percentages all balances had changed in one direction or another since 1 January 1974.

Mr Meacher replied that in 1977 the UK had a crude trade surplus with the Irish Republic, which increased by 266 per cent compared with 1973, and with Belgium/Luxembourg, which declined by 3 per cent on 1973. With the remaining EEC countries the UK had a deficit in 1977. For West Germany the deficit increased by 93 per cent compared with 1973, for France, 75 per cent, Italy, 348 per cent and Netherlands, 16 per cent. The deficit with Denmark fell by 89 per cent between 1973 and 1977.

International trade and the OECD

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement regarding the balance of international trade; and whether he had had discussions with ministers of OECD.

Mr Meacher answered that present trends in international trade suggested only a modest rate of growth for the remainder of 1978. The situation remained precarious as a result of the large balance of payments surpluses both of the Opec countries and also Japan and Germany, the corresponding deficits of other countries, particularly the United States, and the failure of the more strongly placed industrialised countries to pursue sufficiently expansionary demand management policies. These problems were discussed recently by the relevant senior official committee of the OECD, and there had been general agreement that the way out of the present recession had to be found in the developed countries taking collective action to expand their economies, with the responsibility divided among individual countries according to the relative strength of their individual positions. OECD ministers would be discussing the matter at their annual meeting in June.

Car imports from Japan

John Evans (Newton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what recent representations he had had concerning the level of imports of cars from Japan.

Mr Meacher said that he had received a number of representations about vehicle imports from Japan. The Japanese government had clarified the Japanese industry's intentions for the present year. (See *Trade and Industry*, 10 March, p 507).

Aerospace products for Japan

Geoffrey Pattie (Chertsey and Walton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he was satisfied with the progress being made towards the purchase by Japanese companies of products made by the British aerospace industry.

Mr Meacher said that a determined effort with full diplomatic and ministerial support had been made to sell aerospace products, particularly the BAC 1-11 to Japan. He understood that the aircraft had been positively evaluated by the Japanese airline concerned on commercial grounds.

Import of Japanese manufactures

Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would now take unilateral action to restrict the importation of Japanese manufactured goods into the United Kingdom.

Mr Meacher replied that voluntary arrangements already covered about one-third of our imports from Japan, including all the most sensitive sectors.

Impediments to British exports to Japan

Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had received complaining of artificial impediments to British exports to Japan.

Mr Meacher said that representations had been received on a number of specific obstacles to exporting to Japan. The government had made progress in modifying some of these such as vehicle emission standards and testing arrangements.

Developing countries' raw materials

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked what framework existed for internationally-agreed commitments of a general agreement with developing countries between the prices of their raw material exports and their imports and manufactures.

Mr Meacher said that no such agreement had been reached: but the relationship between the prices of developing countries' commodity exports and of their imports of manufactures had been discussed in various international fora, including Unctad and the conference on international economic co-operation.

Incomes policy effect on trade

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked what was the estimated effect on trade both at home and abroad, of the government's voluntary incomes policy blacklist.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he considered it extremely unlikely that blacklisting for government contracts would have any significant effect on trade.

Discussions under Tokyo round

William Shelton (Lambeth, Streatham) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he was satisfied with the rate of progress in the current discussions under the Tokyo round taking place in Switzerland.

Mr Meacher said that the main participants had now tabled their tariff offers, and intensive discussions were taking place on the issues raised by these offers and on various non-tariff issues. He expected decisions of principle to be reached on the most important issues by July of this year.

Concorde flights over India

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what talks he would be having with the Indian government about its ban on Concorde flights over that country.

Mr Clinton Davis said that talks were held in New Delhi last month following the prime minister's visit. The Indian government had decided to refuse permission for supersonic flight over inhabited territory. The government understood however that the Indian government was willing to consider supersonic flight across uninhabited territory and this possibility would be pursued.

Biggin Hill's future

John Hunt (Bromley, Ravensbourne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what recent communication he had had with the London borough of Bromley with regard to the future use of Biggin Hill airport.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that his department was in touch with Bromley Borough Council about various matters concerning Biggin Hill airport. Following the publication of the white paper on airports policy, his officials would now be approaching the council to discuss the airport's future.

Air safety and Gatwick

Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Grinstead) asked what air safety requirements had been taken into account when considering a throughput of 25 million passengers a year at Gatwick airport operating on a single runway.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that standard air traffic control criteria which ensured the safe separation between aircraft taking off and landing had been used in forecasting the runway capacity at Gatwick.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

There was no question of any dilution of these strict ATC criteria or of accepting lower safety standards in calculating the forecast.

Shoe importers

Peter Fry (Wellington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had received from shoe importers or others to relax current controls of imports of footwear.

Mr Meacher said that he had received some written representations from importers and he had met representatives of the British Importers Confederation. The government was satisfied that the action taken to restrain imports was necessary to safeguard the UK industry from disruption.

Low-cost shoe imports

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he had taken to protect the British shoe industry against low-cost imports.

Mr Meacher replied that arrangements dating from 1975 onward with Czechoslovakia, Romania and Poland restrained leather footwear exports to the United Kingdom. A quota at an annual rate of 5.5 million pairs was imposed on imports of non-leather footwear from Taiwan in August 1977. In addition, imports into the United Kingdom of leather footwear from Taiwan and all types of footwear from Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, India, Pakistan, Brazil and the State Trading Area had been made subject to prior surveillance licensing. The Department of Trade was maintaining a close watch on the situation.

Scotch whisky exports

Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked what were the most recent available statistics on the dollars earned by export of Scotch whisky to north America, EEC countries, and Japan.

Mr Meacher answered that in the 12 months ending January 1978 exports of Scotch and Northern Irish whisky to North America, the EEC and Japan were valued at £169 million, £103 million and £41 million fob respectively. All exports earned foreign currency but the denomination of the currency was not known.

Tariffs on wool to America

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had made to American authorities objecting to the high tariff barriers faced by British wool exporters to America.

Mr Meacher said that representations on this subject had been made to the US administration on many occasions and he looked for progress on it in the multilateral trade negotiations.

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Anti-dumping investigations

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many investigations into substantive anti-dumping or countervailing duties had taken place; and if he would list the products which had been investigated for anti-dumping action since 1 January 1971.

Mr Meacher said that since 1 January 1971 his department had undertaken 105 formal investigations into allegations of dumping or subsidy, involving 50 products. These were:

candied peel	steel reinforcing bars (2)
wood chipboard (from 9 countries)	offset-litho printing presses
cauliflowers	hexamine
compound fertilisers (5)	acrylic sheet
magnesium ingots	sporting shotguns
glass grains	spectrophotometers
chromic acid	harvesters
potato granules	pvc coated fabrics (2)
twist-wrapping machines	polyester tops
pig iron	alarm clocks (7)
maleic anhydride (4)	horticultural glass (6)
barbed wire	ophthalmic lenses
cutting and wrapping machines	stereo flong
high density polyethylene (3)	men's sandals (2)
files (4)	men's and boy's suits (6)
men's leather shoes (5)	stainless steel bars and billets
dimethyl formamide (2)	printed circuit board drills
louvre doors	lanolin derivatives
colour tv tubes	compressed air breathing apparatus
battered onion rings	socket sets
dowels and mouldings (2)	hydraulic lifting equipment
plywood (2)	non-alloy steel sections and flats (3)
dumper trucks	yarn-carrying cones
insulating board (5)	tocl and high speed steel bar (2)
saccharin (2)	
ladies raincoats (2)	

On 1 July 1977, responsibility for most investigations passed to the EEC commission, which had since that date announced 59 investigations involving 16 products. Most of these resulted from the basic price scheme for steel imports introduced in January of this year. The products involved were:

Haematite pig iron (from 2 countries)	iron and steel coils for re-rolling (9)
quartz crystals	thin iron and steel sheets and plates (4)
bearing housings	thick iron and steel sheets and plates (9)
steel tubes	galvanised iron and steel sheets and plates (10)
titanium	wire rod (6)
kraft liner (5)	iron and steel angles
hole punching machines	wood chipboard (2)
heavy steel forgings	
shapes and sections(5)	
tall oil rosin	

The commission also carried out a substantial number of anti-dumping investigations before 1 July. The UK industry had an interest in a number of these. Since 1 January 1971, the UK had imposed 19 provisional and 14 substantive duties. The commission had imposed 24 provisional and two substantive duties. In addition to these duties, a large number of cases were settled as a result of voluntary undertakings by exporters.

Concorde runway distances

Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) asked by how much the runways would have to be extended to allow Concorde to take off and land at Manchester, Leeds/Bradford, Luton and Gatwick Airport.

Mr Clinton Davis said that given the same operating conditions as at Heathrow, the figures were of this order:

Manchester	800 m
Leeds/Bradford	2 000 m
Luton	1 500 m
Gatwick	500 m

Meeting with travel agents

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he had any plans to meet representatives of travel agents in the near future.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that ministers met members of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) on 8 February and on 26 February, this time with the Guild of British Travel Agents among other representatives of the travel trade. Michael Meacher expected to have a further meeting shortly.

Tourism in England

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what additional steps he was taking to encourage tourism outside the development areas. Fred Silvester (Manchester, Withington) asked what discussions he had held with interested parties on plans to promote further tourism in the north west.

Mr Meacher said that the government currently provided more than £15 million a year to the English Tourist Board and to the British Tourist Authority, of which only about £2 million was for assistance to tourism projects in the development and special development areas. Most of the remaining £13 million was spent on publicity and marketing, which benefitted all regions including the north west and the Midlands.

Film industry report

Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he expected to be able to make a full statement on the first report of the interim action committee on the film industry.

Mr Meacher replied that he would as soon as he had completed the necessary consultations and consideration.

Whitford report on copyright

Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he expected to complete his consultations on the Whitford committee report on the law of copyright.

Mr Clinton Davis said that his department invited all those who gave evidence to the Whitford committee to submit their views on its recommendations by the end of 1977. Although more than 100 had responded, some important organisations had asked for more time. He had agreed since the issues dealt with in the report are complex. Nevertheless, he hoped to complete consultations in the near future.

Discussions on shipping code

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he had now had with shipowners, shippers, and the appropriate unions about the EEC draft proposal on a community approach to the international code of conduct for shipping, with a view to assessing the advantages for British and European shipping interests.

Mr Clinton Davis said that his department was still in close contact with both sides of the industry about the commission proposals on the UN code of conduct for liner conferences. They had not yet completed their assessment.

Certificates granted under Companies Act

John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked how many banks or other institutions requiring certificates under the provisions of section 123 of the Companies Act 1948 had been wound up since 1 January 1973 to date; and what were the names of those companies.

Mr Clinton Davis said that 175 certificates had been granted under section 123 of the Companies Act 1967; of these, 134 were still valid. Once a certificate had been relinquished or revoked, no separate record was maintained of the subsequent activities of former holders. It would not be possible, except at disproportionate cost, to establish which of them had been wound up since 1 January 1973.

Report on advertising for solicitors

John Ellis (Brigg and Scunthorpe) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action he intended to take with regard to the report of the Monopolies Commission that solicitors be allowed to advertise.

Mr Fraser said that he had received a report from the Directory General of Fair Trading on the discussions that he had been holding with the profession at the secretary of state's request and Mr Fraser had asked the president of the Law Society to meet him to discuss one or two outstanding points. He hoped to hold that meeting soon and he would inform the House of the outcome.

Swan Hunter

Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether his department was required to approve all pay increases at the Swan Hunter shipyards on the Tyne; whether he had been kept informed of the constant industrial disputes at the yards since nationalisation; and whether, having regard to the loss of orders, large-scale redundancies and current complete closure of the yard he would set up an independent inquiry to bring forward proposals for ensuring a return to good industrial relations at the yard.

Mr Huckfield said that British Shipbuilders and the department consulted on all pay offers to ensure that they conformed to the pay guidelines. Industrial relations were for the corporation who were discussing the outstanding matters at Swan Hunter with the unions concerned and local management.

Community strategy for shipbuilding

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether the government accepted as a basis for policy

the opinion of the European commission that a medium-term European community strategy for shipbuilding was preferable to short-term national efforts to prolong the life of inefficient yards or to continue production of unwanted vessels.

Mr Huckfield replied that the government supported the view that solutions to structural problems such as shipbuilding should be increasingly sought on a community level; but it considered that national measures would be needed within such an approach, and rejected the view of their consequences contained in the last part of the question.

EEC regional development fund

Tim Rathbone (Lewes) asked how much was expected to be applied for and received in £ sterling in grants to the United Kingdom from the EEC regional development fund in 1978 and 1979 on current projections of the development of the fund.

Mr Cryer answered that the European regional development fund for 1978 would amount to 581 million European units of account (about £375 million at current exchange rates), of which the United Kingdom share was expected to be about £100 million at current exchange rates. Receipts were likely to be spread over several years. The size of the fund for 1979 had not yet been finally decided.

Industrial property in NE

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what information his department had collected from developers, local authorities and new town corporations about industrial land and buildings available for sale or rent in the assisted areas of the north east.

Mr Cryer said that his department's regional office in Newcastle maintained a comprehensive record of industrial land and buildings available in the north east for both sale and rent. It is up-dated monthly from information collected from the English Industrial Estates Corporation, private developers, new town corporations, county councils and estate agents.

Industrial inquiries and the NE

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many inquiries his department had received from industrial companies in response to the government's regional policy in the north east.

Mr Cryer said that during the years 1974-77 the northern regional office of his department dealt with 1866 inquiries from firms considering setting up or expanding in the northern region, including the north east.

Unoccupied advance factories

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what estimate his department had of unoccupied advance government factories in the northern region.

Mr Cryer answered that at 31 January 1978, his department had available in the northern region 38 advance factories and 23 terrace units, providing a total floor area of about 67 600 m².

Grants for industry

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what estimate had been made of the total of grants and other financial incentives offered since January 1974 to encourage industrial firms establishing themselves in the northern region.

Mr Cryer said that assistance had been made available to company undertakings in the northern region between 1 January 1974 and 31 December 1977 under the Industry Act 1972 as follows:

		£ million
Part I	Payment of regional development grant	404.3
Part II	Section 7 Offers of regional selective assistance	49.2
	Section 8 Offers of selective financial assistance	26.1

Applications for assistance under part II totalling £22.9 million were still under consideration on 31 December 1977. Assistance had also been made available under the Industry Act 1972 to the shipbuilding industry; and by the National Enterprise Board under the Industry Act 1975. Assistance would continue to be made available from these sources to qualifying undertakings of all industries locating or expanding in the northern region.

EIB loans for steel

Neil Marten (Banbury) asked what loans had been made by the European Investment Bank to the British Steel Corporation from the beginning of January 1977 to date, giving the amounts and rates of interest and terms of repayment.

Mr Huckfield replied that loan approvals announced by the European Investment Bank for the British Steel Corporation from January 1977 to date were as follows:

Plant	amount £ million	Interest rate %
Redcar	8.0	8⅛
Ravenscraig	14.0	8¼
Distington/Fullwood	7.65	8¼
Ravenscraig	52.7	8¼
Templetton (Consett)	3.9	8⅛
Port Clarence (Teesside)	6.9	8½
Craigneuk	3.75	8¼

These loans are generally repayable on an annuity basis over 12 years from when the projects come on stream.

Industrial development certificates

Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what were the number of industrial development certificates applied for in the west Midlands region since January 1974 to the latest available date, the number of applications not granted together with the relevant date, and the area of the region to which they related.

Mr Cryer replied that statistics about industrial development certificates were available only for certificates granted and refused. During the four years 1974 to 1977, 991 certificates were granted in the west Midlands region and 17 refused. An analysis of these figures by year and by county is given below:

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES: WEST MIDLANDS REGION: ALL SCHEMES

	1974		1975		1976		1977		total 1974-77	
Counties	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused
Hereford and Worcester	24	1	27	1	26	–	19	–	96	2
Salop	9	–	15	–	21	–	21	–	66	–
Staffordshire	48	4	53	3	58	–	32	–	191	7
West Midlands	109	4	163	1	140	–	134	1	546	6
Warwickshire	12	1	19	1	36	–	25	–	92	2
West Midlands Region	202	10	277	6	281	–	231	1	991	17

Company statistics

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked what had been the level, respectively, of cash and government securities, and of current liabilities held by companies operating mainly in the United Kingdom since 1971 to the latest available date; and what had therefore been their liquidity ratio for each of these years.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that the available figures, which related to large listed and (except for 1976) unlisted companies engaged mainly in the United Kingdom in manufacturing, distribution, construction, transport (other than shipping) and miscellaneous, non-financial services, were given in the table below:

Year[1]	Number of companies[2]	Cash, etc[3] £ million	British government securities[4] £ million	Total current liabilities[5] £ million	Liquidity ratio[6] %
1971 final	1 851	1 833	14	17 153	10.8
1971 comparable to 1972 final	1 825 1 754	1 829 2 797	14 8	17 093 19 447	10.8 14.4
1972 comparable to 1973 final	1 734 1 691	2 788 3 510	8 18	19 319 25 354	14.5 13.9
1973 comparable to 1974 final	1 665 1 649	3 476 3 053	18 26	24 883 30 491	14.0 10.1
1974 comparable to 1975 final	1 527 1 513	3 024 3 987	24 32	30 420 32 550	10.0 12.3
1975 comparable to 1976 provisional[7]	821 802	3 069 4 250	29 97	23 498 28 371	13.2 15.3

Sources: 'Business monitor, M3 – company finance' (published annually)
1971 – table 3 of fifth issue
1972 to 1974 – table 1 of sixth, seventh and eighth issues
1975 and 1976 – tables 1 and 2 of ninth issue (to be published shortly).

Notes:
[1] The figures for any one year, shown as a calendar year, cover figures for companies' accounting periods ending between 6 April of the year shown and 5 April of the following year. [2] The number of large companies covered by the analysis (as published in Business monitor M3) decreases from year-to-year because of acquisitions, mergers, liquidations or nationalisation. For this reason two figures for each year are shown. The large fall in the number of companies between 1974 and 1975 followed the raising of the size criteria that determine which companies are included. [3] Cash, etc = Cash, bank and similar balances plus UK Treasury Bills. [4] British government securities, in so far as they can be identified in companies' accounts. [5] Total current liabilities = Bank overdrafts and loans plus short-term loans plus trade and other creditors plus dividends and interest due plus current taxation. [6] Liquidity ratio = Cash etc plus government securities as a proportion of total current liabilities. [7] Relates to large listed companies only. Further details of assets and liabilities can be obtained from 'Business monitor M3 – company finance', including figures for a liquidity ratio defined as the ratio of immediate assets (total current assets less stocks and work-in-progress) to total current liabilities.

Price survey scheme

W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether his department intended to extend the local price survey scheme beyond 31 March 1978.

Mr Maclennan said that following the proved and increasingly recognised success of the local price survey, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection had decided to continue financing surveys for a further 12 months from 1 April 1978. Because of the importance of ensuring that comparative price information was readily available to the shopper, the government had increased the maximum grant for each survey from £1,200 to £1,300 per annum to enable participants to improve and extend publicity and dissemination of the results. Local authorities and other participants had been notified of these arrangements. Although the government had succeeded in reducing inflation to single figures, there was still considerable variation in shop prices. Shoppers needed to be able to compare prices readily; this was essential if competition was to work properly and if they were to be able to turn existing price variations to their advantage. Experience had shown that significant savings could be effected by using the price survey results. At the present time about 230 local price surveys offered a useful service, by showing each week, a number of basic grocery and fresh food prices in the main shops of an area. He hoped that, through continued co-operation of those running the surveys and the media, more people would in future be able to take advantage of this service.

Cardiff development status

Ian Grist (Cardiff North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether, in view of the imminent closure of the East Moors Steelworks by the British Steel Corporation and the resultant level of unemployment amongst steel workers and those dependant on the steel works, he was now prepared to designate Cardiff a special development area.

Mr Cryer said that the government made Cardiff a development area on 14 August 1974. There was no evidence that a further upgrading would be justified at present.

Report on British Leyland
Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether the National Enterprise Board had reported to him their agreement to British Leyland's plan for further finance.

Mr Huckfield replied that the secretary of state had now received the NEB's report on British Leyland's corporate plan. The government was considering the NEB's recommendations.

Tuesday, 14 March

Anti-dumping and the steel industry
Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list the actions taken during the last two years to protect the steel industry in general and the special steel industry in particular from unfair overseas competition.

Mr Meacher replied that anti-dumping duties had been imposed on stainless steel bars from Spain and non-alloy light sections from Japan. Following other anti-dumping investigations, satisfactory assurances were received from the Spanish government on price and tonnage levels for reinforcing bars and non-alloy light sections and flats. Similar undertakings were given to the EEC commission by the South African government covering a wide range of steel exports to the community and in particular reinforcing bars and non-alloy light sections and flats to the United Kingdom. An investigation into the dumping of tool steel bars from Sweden was terminated in the light of market developments and a further investigation on high speed and tool steel from Austria was also terminated following receipt of assurances satisfactory to UK industry. Imports of a wide range of iron and steel products from the USSR and Romania have been prohibited except under individual import licence. Discussions have taken place with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Poland and he was satisfied that the level of deliveries of steel in 1978 would not cause difficulties to the industry. The commission was now engaged in negotiations with all the major suppliers of steel to the community about the price and volume of their exports in 1978 and agreements had already been reached with Efta countries. Meanwhile a wide range of provisional anti-dumping duties was in force.

Teesside airport
Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether it was his policy that operations at Teesside airport should be confined to third level services, as defined in the white paper on airports policy.

Mr Clinton Davis said it was not the department's policy. The classification of airports in the white paper should be interpreted flexibly, since individual airports had particular functions which might change over a period of time. The white paper suggested that Teesside airport had a significant future, and that it should provide a range of domestic services, as well as international short-haul services where there was sufficient demand.

Disappearance from SS 'Canberra'
Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would make a full investigation into the disappearance of Jesus Nazareth D'Cunha from the SS Canberra *on 24 February.*

Mr Clinton Davis said that in accordance with the provisions of section 61 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970, the disappearance of Mr D'Cunha from SS *Canberra* had already been the subject of an inquiry held by a superintendent of the Australian Mercantile Marine Service at Sydney. A copy of the report, which found that Mr D'Cunha was lost at sea, believed killed or drowned, had just been received at the general register and record office of shipping and seamen in Cardiff.

Semi-conductor technology
Ian Lloyd (Havant and Waterloo) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he was satisfied with the current level of research and development on very large scale integration semi-conductor technology in the United Kingdom.

Mr Kaufman replied that research in this field compared well in quality and range with that in most other countries. Nevertheless, he was concerned that research and development should be strengthened in line with the objectives being developed for microelectronics through the government's Industrial Strategy. His department was preparing for a programme of collaboration with industry in support of these objectives; it would include co-operation with the Science Research Council and with the Ministry of Defence.

Policy on lifts for public agencies
Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked if the government advised public agencies that, in the purchase or maintenance of lifts, any perference should be given to manufacturers in receipt of government financial help and withheld from those who are not.

Mr Huckfield replied that the policy of his department in awarding contracts was to obtain wherever possible the best value for money. The Secretary of State for Industry was not responsible for the purchasing policies of any public agencies.

Wednesday, 15 March

Manufacturing industry in London
Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he was aware that between 1961 and 1974 London had lost some 500 000 manufacturing jobs at a rate of loss seven times that of the national average and that by 1976 the figure had risen to 550 000; and what action he had taken or intended taking to deal with this situation.

Mr Cryer said that between 1961 and 1974 the numbers employed in manufacturing industry in the greater London area fell by 500 000 and in addition its population also fell by almost 819 000. London as elsewhere was benefiting from the measures introduced by the government to encourage investment in manufacturing industry and to promote employment. Moreover the government's inner city policy would encourage suitable industrial development in certain parts of London with particularly serious problems.

Polyisoprene rubber
T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked at what price butane would have to be sold in the United Kingdom from North Sea sources to make a further polyisoprene rubber plant an economic proposition.

Mr Cryer replied that high-cis polyisoprene, a synthetic rubber very similar to natural rubber, was not at present produced in the United Kingdom. The synthetic rubber working party (now part of the petrochemicals sector working party) recommended in July 1976 that the United Kingdom should build a large polyisoprene plant using North Sea butanes as feedstock. The government had said that it recognised that a commercially viable polyisoprene plant would benefit the national balance of payments, and accord with its policy that North Sea oil and gas resources should be exploited to maximum advantage. The synthetic rubber working party had considered the major factors influencing the commercial viability of the project – butane feedstock price and availability; the scale and capital cost of the project; and marketing and product pricing. Of these factors, the working party had given most attention to the butane feedstock. It estimated that, for the project to be viable, the price of butane in this country would need to be in the region of US $80-100 a tonne. The main market for butane was the United States' energy market, and this had hitherto set world prices for butane. The current view from potential feedstock suppliers (and endorsed by the petrochemical sector working party) was that butane would be available for the project in adequate quantity but only at a comparable price of about US $120 a tonne. But it could be that, in the future, long-term trends in butane supply might favour the project: for example, as schemes were put into action in various parts of the world to increase recovery of butanes and other gases and gas liquids, the prevailing price level may become depressed.

Shipping safety
Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he was able to report any improvements in the arrangements to secure the safety of shipping in the English Channel.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the Department of Trade, in co-operation with the French authorities, had improved radar surveillance in the Dover Straits area and extended means of identifying vessels contravening the traffic separation scheme. These developments, the improvement of the safety record and measures for combatting pollution in the event of an accident, together with future plans were described in a report, issued today, of the Anglo-French safety of navigation group.

Departmental leaflets and forms
Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what were the total number of leaflets and forms issued by his department in 1977; what were their names or classification numbers; how many were printed in each case; and what was the cost of printing them.

Mr Clinton Davis said that his department issues many hundreds of different forms and leaflets for a wide range of purposes, many of them statutory, in connection with matters such as companies and patent legislation as well as in the marine and civil aviation areas and for the promotion of exports. Detailed information of the type asked for could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

Bacon prices
Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection in view of the fact that back rashers had risen in price by 2p a lb, through rashers by 1p a lb and collar and hock bacon joints by 2p to 3p a lb, whether he would refer these price increases to the Price Commission for investigation.

Mr Maclennan replied that the Secretary of State had at present no plans to direct the Price Commission to make a further examination of bacon. The Price Commission report on prices, costs and margins in the importation and distribution of bacon was published on 21 February, and interested parties were currently being consulted about the report's findings.

Cost of living
Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, in view of the fact that in the week ended 11 March 1978, the price of bacon back rashers rose by 2p a lb, cut-through rashers by 1p a lb and collar and hock bacon joints by 2p to 3p a lb, to what extent he estimated such increases would increase the cost of living.

Mr Maclennan answered that wholesale prices for imported bacon rose by £30 per ton from 6 March 1978 and domestic bacon prices rose by the same amount a week later. It was difficult to assess precisely the impact of these increases on retail prices for individual cuts of bacon. An increase of 1p per lb on the average price for all cuts of bacon would raise the rpi by about one-hundredth of one per cent.

Thursday, 16 March

Convention for safe containers
David Walder (Clitheroe) asked when the government intended to ratify the Intergovernmental Marine Consultation Organisation's convention for safe containers.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the international convention for safe containers was ratified by the government on 8 March 1978 and the instrument of ratification had been deposited with the Secretary General to the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation.

Performing Right Society
Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if, in view of the Court of Appeal's decision in the uncontested appeal brought by the Performing Right Society Ltd to the effect that, on a technical construction of the relevant provisions of the Companies Acts, the Performing Right Society Council can continue to deprive the members of the list of the society's voting members, thereby perpetuating themselves in office, he will seek to amend the laws governing non-share companies.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that when a transcript of the judgement of the Court of Appeal, which was given only on 10 March, was available, he would consider whether any change in the law was desirable.

Corporate assets in South Africa
Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was the gross amount remitted from South Africa to the United Kindom arising out of British corporate assets in South Africa for each of the last five years.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the information available related to receipts of interest and dividends

from the direct investment by United Kingdom companies, other than oil companies, in subsidiaries and associates in South Africa and the total net profits from their direct investment in branches in South Africa. This amounted to £56 million in 1973, £70 million in 1974, and £87 million in 1975, the latest year for which information was available.

Trade with South Africa

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked for a list of the total value of imports from and exports to South Africa for each of the last five years.

Mr Clinton Davis gave the following information:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Imports (£ million cif)	401.2	558.4	632.6	614.8	879.8
Exports (£ million fob)	374.3	530.9	690.0	653.2	581.1

Aid for investment or trade

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was the gross value of official British aid or relief to promotional organisations and companies wishing to invest in or trade with South Africa for each of the last five years.

Mr Clinton Davis said that BOTB direct expenditure on the promotion of exports to South Africa by way of support for participation in trade fairs, assistance to outward and inward collective missions, export marketing research etc had been as follows:

	£'000
1973-74 (estimated)	246
1974-75 (actual)	288
1975-76 (actual)	242
1976-77 (actual)	260
1977-78 (estimated)	228[1]

[1]Representing about 1.3 per cent of the world total.

There was no direct expenditure designed to promote investment in South Africa. Companies operating there were subject to the same tax and exchange control arrangements as applied to overseas investment elsewhere.

Capital investment in South Africa

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what had been the level of new British capital investment in South Africa for each of the last five years.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that the information available related to direct investment overseas by United Kingdom companies, excluding oil, up to 1975. Such investments in South Africa were:

	£million		
	1973	1974	1975
Direct investment other than unremitted profits of South African subsidiaries and associates of United Kingdom companies	−19	35	29
Unremitted profits of South African subsidiaries and associates of United Kingdom companies	105	143	124
Total direct investment	86	178	153

British corporate assets

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was the value in total of British corporate assets in South Africa.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the total book value of British investments, both direct and indirect, in South Africa, including South West Africa, as estimated by the Reserve Bank of South Africa was £4,817 million at the end of 1976.

Friday, 17 March

Finance for exports to EEC states

Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington) asked about the provision of finance on credit terms of two years or more for exports to member states of the European Community.

Mr Meacher replied that hitherto finance had been made available at fixed rates of interest by the banks with the support of the Export Credits Guarantee Department for all exports on credit terms of two years or more. The commission of the EEC had now drawn the attention of HM government to the fact that in so far as these arrangements related to exports to other members of the community, they were in contravention of the treaty of Rome and it had therefore been agreed that they should be withdrawn in respect of the generality of exports to the EEC. About 1 per cent of total UK exports to the community were affected. It has however been agreed with the commission that the fixed rate arrangements may be continued in respect of sales of ships, which were governed by a separate OECD agreement, and that similar exceptions might be considered on a case by case basis after discussion with the commission for other business, for example European aircraft and aeroengine projects. Accordingly, although ECGD would continue to give its full guarantees in respect of finance to the EEC, no new offers of finance at officially supported fixed rates would be made from 1 April 1978 unless the business fell within the terms of agreed exceptions. Under ECGD guarantees the banks would assist exporters to make the best commercial arrangements possible as regards rates of interest for financing EEC trade and to give exporters maximum flexibility in making arrangements with the banks, ECGD would no longer require any category of exports to the EEC to be financed in foreign currency rather than sterling. With this added flexibility it may be possible to provide medium-term fixed-rate finance at commercial rates in some instances. Where fixed rates were not possible finance would be made available at a variable rate of interest at a margin over Libor. For sterling lending this would not normally exceed 1¼ per cent over the three month rate and for lending in foreign currencies the margin above Libor would continue to be negotiated on a case by case basis.

EEC sensitive industries

Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked which were the 13 sensitive industries in the European Economic Community which were protected by tariff quota.

Mr Clinton Davis said that under the European community's generalised scheme of preferences, access concession on 13 'sensitive' industrial products (in addition to textiles and certain ECSC products) were subject to tariff quotas. These were amino acids, bovine cattle leather, plastic travel goods, travel goods of other materials, leather clothing, plywood, plastic footwear, leather footwear, other footwear of plastic or rubber, radio and television transmitters, receivers and parts, diodes, transistors and parts, chairs and other seats and other furniture and parts.

Post-school education

Tony Durant (Reading North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the annual cost to his department of providing post-school education and training; and what was the distribution of this expenditure by: (a) regions, (b) industrial sectors and (c) the various types of educational establishment, including training within industry. He also asked how many people underwent, or were undergoing, post-school education and training paid for by his department in 1975 to 76, 1976 to 77 and 1977 to 78; and what were the breakdown of these numbers by: (a) regions, (b) industrial sectors and (c) the various types of educational establishment.

Mr Huckfield replied that training in industry was primarily the responsibility of the Department of Employment. However, in certain of its current activities the Department of Industry was contributing towards post-school education and training in industry, though it was not possible to analyse the figures as requested. Training costs might be taken into account within total project costs in determining what amount of selective financial assistance should be offered under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972, but were not separately identified. Since March 1976 the Department had provided £42,008 to assist in the setting up of an advanced course in production and manufacturing management run jointly by Cambridge and Lancaster universities. There were 33 students attending the course. The Department of Industry and the Science Research Council were jointly funding the teaching company scheme, the aims of which included the training of selected graduates entering manufacturing industry. The scheme, still in its early stages of development, had cost the department £38,752 to date and 28 graduates were participating. It was not possible to apportion costs between training and the other aims of the scheme. In addition the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection had a common training service for departmental staff.

Ethylene

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he would give his estimate of the annual United Kingdom ethylene capacity, the capacity of new plant under construction or planned, and of the projected growth of ethylene consumption.

Mr Cryer replied. He said that present UK ethylene capacity was 1.6 million tonnes per annum. The ICI-BP cracker under construction on Teesside would increase capacity by a further 500 000 tonnes per annum. Growth in consumption could be expected to reflect the expansion in the UK economy and in world trade.

T. H. H. Skeet (Beford) asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he would assess the current ethylene production: (a) in the United Kingdom and (b) in western Europe, and the demand in the two sectors.

Mr Cryer was asked to reply. He said that in 1977, UK ethylene production was 1.16 million tonnes. Western European ethylene production figures for 1977 were not available, but figures collected by the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers Federations showed that consumption was 10.37 million tonnes, with a forecast for 1981 of 12.6 million tonnes. Forecasts of UK ethylene production and consumption were not available.

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked about the ethylene market in western Europe and the future trend.

Mr Cryer replied that he understood that there was current over capacity in the ethylene market throughout western Europe. The future depended on how far and how fast there was a resumption of general economic growth.

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what was the percentage of total ethylene production in the United Kingdom from: (a) naphtha, (b) gas oil, and (c) other feedstock; and what proportions were envisaged for 1985.

Mr Cryer answered that his department did not collect statistics on feedstocks used for the manufacture of ethylene. He understood however, that at present all existing crackers in the United Kingdom used naphtha feedstock but that in the future companies were likely to incorporate some flexibility to use other feedstocks.

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether government policy recommending four ethylene crackers by 1985 had now been abandoned; and for an indication of what the revised figure was for the mid-eighties.

Mr Cryer said that the government remained fully committed to its previously announced petrochemical strategy and to its objective of bringing about the construction of new ethylene crackers in the United Kingdom on a commercially viable basis. The timing of their construction, as he had always recognised, was largely dependent on a judgement of the market by the industry.

Alluvial tin

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what assessment had been made of alluvial tin deposits off Cornwall and the reserves; and at what prices for the commodity the domestic industry working offshore would become viable.

Mr Cryer replied that it was particularly difficult to make any reliable assessment of the alluvial tin deposits off Cornwall. More information should become available when a start was made on the offshore operations planned for 1979-80. Until the domestic offshore industry had had some operational experience it would be premature to try and assess viable price levels.

Walsall bureau

Bruce George (Walsall South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection how much he would give to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Walsall: (a) for capital costs and (b) running expenses to enable them to assume responsibilities for the 'shoppers shop'.

Mr Fraser replied that his department would be providing £6,000 to the west Midlands regional office of the National Association to meet the capital costs of re-establishing a Consumer Advice Centre in Walsall. This capital grant had recently been increased to meet previously unforseen additional costs. His department hoped to be able to fund 100 per cent of the costs of running this centre in 1978-79. These were estimated at £24,500.

Metrication report

Tim Rathbone (Lewes) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection when he intended to issue his department's next metrication report to Parliament.

Mr Fraser said that he hoped to issue the next report in May.

European community news

ECGD ends support for fixed-interest rates for EEC sales

To meet EEC requirements new arrangements are to be applied to the financing of UK exports on credit of two years or more to EEC countries.

From 1 April, while the Export Credits Guarantee Department's unconditional guarantees to financing banks will continue to be available for exports to EEC countries, there will be no ECGD support for the rate at which finance is provided. The rate of interest will be that set by the financing bank.

The new arrangements will apply, with a few specified exceptions, to all ECGD-backed exports to EEC countries on credit terms of two years or more.

In total ECGD insures some 28 per cent of UK exports to EEC countries, with a value of £2,570 million in 1976. Over 97 per cent of this trade is on credit terms of less than two years and is not affected by the announcement.

Answering a parliamentary question on 17 March, Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said that finance had been made available at fixed rates of interest by the banks with the support of the Export Credits Guarantee Department for all exports on credit terms of two years or more.

The European commission had drawn the government's attention to the fact that where these arrangements related to exports to other members of the community they contravened the treaty of Rome. It had therefore been agreed that they would be withdrawn in the case of most exports to the EEC. About 1 per cent of total UK exports to the community were affected. Mr Meacher continued that it had been agreed with the commission that the fixed rate arrangements might be continued in respect of sales of ships, which were governed by a separate OECD agreement, and that similar exceptions might be considered on a case-by-case basis after discussion with the commission for other business, for example European aircraft and aero-engine projects.

Accordingly, he said, no new offers of finance at officially-supported fixed rates would be made from 1 April 1978 unless the business falls within the terms of agreed exceptions.

Under ECGD guarantees the banks would assist exporters to make the best commercial arrangements possible as regards rates of interest for financing EEC trade and to give exporters maximum flexibility in making arrangements with the banks.

ECGD would no longer require any category of exports to the EEC to be financed in foreign currency rather than sterling.

With this added flexibility, Mr Meacher said, it might be possible to provide medium-term, fixed-rate, finance at commercial rates in some instances.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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EEC rules of competition

The texts of two European commission decisions relating to proceedings under article 85 of the treaty of Rome announced on 23 December 1977 have recently been published in the *Official Journal*.

78/193/EEC. This decision relates to an agreement entered into in February 1976 by J. C. Penney Inc, New York (Penney America), and Penneys Ltd, Dublin, a subsidiary of Associated British Foods (ABF), to settle a dispute over the use of the word 'Penneys' as a trade name and trade mark. The two companies' main lines of business are the operation of clothing and textile retail stores.

The agreement as originally notified contained a clause which prevented permanently the ABF group from contesting and using 'Penneys' as a trade name or trade mark in the EEC and from obtaining cancellation of Penney America's registration even if Penney America definitively ceased the use of the word 'Penneys'.

The parties have modified this provision and the commission considers that there are no grounds for action under article 85(1) of the treaty. (Reference DGIV 29.246 *Official Journal* L60, 2 March 1978.)

78/194/EEC: Jaz SA, Paris, and Peter-Uhren GmbH, Rottweil (reference DGIV 26.437). The present decision relates to a request for renewal of a decision adopted by the commission on 22 July 1969 for the period to 10 January 1977 under article 85(3) of the treaty in respect of a specialisation and reciprocal supply agreement in timepieces made in January 1967 between the parties.

The commission considers that the agreement continues to fulfil the conditions required for the application of article 85(3) and has renewed the decision of 22 July 1969 until 10 January 1987. (*Official Journal* L61, 3 March 1978.)

Inquiries about these cases can be addressed to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 5329.

Alleged dumping of alloy steel bars and rods

The European commission has received information indicating that dumping is being practised or that bounties or subsidies are being granted in respect of imports of bars and rods of alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, originating in Japan and Spain – CCT subheading 73.15 BVb)2 Nimexe codes 73.73-33 and 39 – and that this is causing injury to a community industry.

In conjunction with the member states, the commission has accordingly commenced examination of the matter at community level in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC on protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the European Coal and Steel Community, as amended by recommendation 3004/77/ECSC.

Any information relating to the matter may be sent in writing to the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for External Relations, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels. It would be helpful if copies of all representations to the commission could also be sent to the Department of Trade's Anti-Dumping Unit, Room 344, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Interested parties may, by 7 April, make known their views in writing, in particular by replying to the questionnaire addressed to the parties known to be concerned and by providing supporting evidence. Furthermore the commission will hear parties directly concerned who so request when making known their views to the commission, provided they can show that they have an interest sufficient to entitle them to express their views more fully.

Temporary suspension of the CCT

The Department of Trade has been notified by the EEC of requests for total suspension of the Common Customs Tariff

(CCT) to operate from 1 July 1978 on the following goods:

28.28 B	Lithium oxide and hydroxide
28.42 A.VI	Lithium carbonates

The CCT duty on the latter material is currently reduced to 3 per cent.

The department will wish to take account of UK interests in making its views known to the EEC before decisions are taken whether or not to grant these proposed suspensions. If any UK companies are already manufacturing the above materials (or like or competing materials) or expect shortly to be in production so that their interests would be adversely affected by a suspension of the CCT, they should notify the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

The information should reach the department not later than 7 April.

Inquiries: 01-215 3576.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

General. Regulation (EEC) 475/78 amending article 1 of regulation (EEC) 937/77 following the fixing of a new exchange rate to be applied in France in agriculture (*Official Journal* L65, 8 March 1978).

Processed fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 436/78 amending regulation (EEC) 459/76 establishing a system of minimum prices applicable to the importation of tomato concentrates originating in Greece (*Official Journal* L60, 2 March 1978).

Beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 456/78 amending regulation (EEC) 221/72 as regards the qualifying date for the takeover of intervention beef meat for which the maximum tolerance for weight losses resulting from storage applies (*Official Journal* L62, 4 March 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 502/78 amending regulation (EEC) 610/77 on the determination of prices of adult bovine animals on representative community markets and the survey of prices of certain other cattle in the community. 'In annexes II and III to regulation (EEC) 610/77 under the heading "A. Germany, 1. Representative markets", the market "Köln" is deleted' (*Official Journal* L68, 10 March 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 505/78 extending the 1977-78 marketing year for beef and veal. This will now end on 30 April 1978 and the 1978-79 marketing year will commence on 1 May 1978 (*Official Journal* L69, 11 March 1978).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 506/78 extending regulation (EEC) 1078/77 introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds.

The second sentence of article 9 of regulation (EEC) 1078/77 shall be replaced by the following:

'The measures provided for in this regulation shall be applied until the end of the 1977-78 milk year.'

(*Official Journal* L69, 11 March 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 507/78 extending the 1977-78 milk year so that the 1977-78 milk year ends on 30 April 1978 and the 1978-79 milk year will commence on 1 May 1978 (*Official Journal* L69, 11 March 1978).

Dehydrated fodder. Regulation (EEC) 508/78 extending to 31 May 1978 the system of aid for the production of dehydrated fodder, referred to in article 1 (b) of regulation (EEC) 1067/74, provided for under title I thereof, and the measures taken for its application (*Official Journal* L69, 11 March 1978).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 486/78 amending for the ninth time regulation (EEC) 2005/70 on the classification of vine varieties (*Official Journal* L67, 9 March 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 487/78 amending the annex to regulation (EEC) 588/77 as regards the list of authorised vine varieties which may be used in France and Italy, for new plantings and replantings until 30 November 1978 (*Official Journal* L67, 9 March 1978).

Seeds and plants. The *Official Journal* L62, 4 March 1978, contains the text of decision 78/200/EEC authorising member states to permit temporarily the marketing of forestry reproductive material not complying with requirements of directive 66/404/EEC.

Decision 78/210/EEC authorising France to permit temporarily the marketing of seed not complying with requirements of directive 66/401/EEC (*Official Journal* L64, 7 March 1978).

Decision 78/211/EEC authorising France to permit temporarily the marketing of seed not complying with requirements of directive 66/401/EEC (*Official Journal* L64, 7 March 1978).

Decision 78/226/EEC amending decision 77/596/EEC authorising France to permit temporarily the marketing of seed not complying with the requirements of directive 66/401/EEC, as follows:

In article 1 of decision 77/596/EEC, for '31 October 1977' *read* '31 July 1978 for a maximum of 200 tonnes of red clover seed of the category "commercial seed".' (*Official Journal* L67, 9 March 1978).

The *Official Journal* C48, 27 February 1978, contains the text of the fourth complete edition of the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. Copies of *Official Journal* C48 may be obtained from HMSO, price £3.40, plus postage.

Common customs tariff

Regulation (EEC) 488/78 on the classification of goods falling within subheading 39.02 CV of the common customs tariff (*Official Journal* L67, 9 March 1978).

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal* L64, 7 March 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 78/207/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to men's woven shirts of mixed synthetic textile fibres, falling within heading ex 61.03 of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/208/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, falling within heading ex 62.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/213/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to cartridges for smooth-bore sporting guns, falling within heading ex 93.07 of the common customs tariff, originating in Czechoslovakia and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/214/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised, of synthetic and regenerated textile fibres, falling within heading ex 60.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

The *Official Journal* L67, 9 March 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 78/218/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to coats and jackets of woven man-made textile fibres, falling within heading ex 61.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Yugoslavia and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/219/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to garments, falling within heading 61.01, 61.02 or 61.03 of the common customs tariff, originating in Poland and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/220/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to women's outer garments, falling within heading ex 61.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Hungary and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/221/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to women's outer garments, falling within heading ex 61.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Poland and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/224/EEC authorising France to apply protective measures to imports of live sheep, falling within subheading 01.04 AIb) of the common customs tariff, and of mutton and lamb, falling within subheading 02.01 A ex IV thereof, originating in third countries and in free circulation in the other member states.

EEC – what's it short for?

The Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit is often asked about initials and other abbreviations used in the EEC context. An extensive glossary is included in 'EEC – Your Questions Answered', a businessman's guide published by the unit at the end of 1976.

A list of additions is published this week in place of the question and answer feature.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Copies of 'EEC – Your Questions Answered' with updating amendment sheets can also be obtained, free of charge, from the unit.

AASMM
Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius. The 17 African states and Madagascar (Mauritius joined in 1972) concluded the 1969 Yaounde Convention (now expired) with the EEC. The AASMM is now defunct, having been absorbed within the larger African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) association.

CEEA
Communaute europeenne de l'energie atomique = Euratom = EAEC.

CIDST
Comite d'Information et de Documentation Scientifique et Technique (Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation). Founded by a resolution of the council of ministers in 1971 to promote European development in this field. Jean Monnet Building, European Centre, Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

Cipec
Conseil Intergouvernemental de Pays Exportateurs de Cuivre (Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries). 177 Avenue du Roule, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

EAC
European Agency for Co-operation. Attached to the Finance and Administration Unit of Directorate General VIII (Development) of the European commission. Provides administrative support for European Development Fund delegates and EDF experts in the field.

EAEC
European Atomic Energy Community = Euratom = CEEA.

Embo
European Molecular Biology Organisation. Founded in 1963 to further the development of molecular biology in Europe by a European inter-governmental organisation, the European Molecular Biology Conference. 6900 Heidelberg 1 Postfach 1022.40, West Germany.

EMU
Economic and Monetary Union, the community concept developed at the Hague summit of 1969 under which member states would put at the disposal of the common institutions the use of all the instruments of monetary and economic policy to be exercised for the community as a whole.

EOE
It is proposed to set up a European Options Exchange in Amsterdam in April 1978, to facilitate trading in options on securities of European quoted companies. A Dutch venture, not linked with the community.

ESC
Economic and Social Committee. Established under the EEC and Euratom treaties, and composed of representatives of employers, employees and other interests, it is an advisory body which is consulted by the commission and the council of ministers. Not to be confused with Ecosoc, the Economic and Social Council, an organ of the United Nations Organisation.

EUA
European unit of account ('Basket' unit of account = UA). The value is calculated in Belgian francs then converted into other currencies at the market rate in various capitals. The commission regularly publishes their values in the 'C' series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, obtainable from HMSO.

Eurofer
Association of European Steel Producers, 38-39 Square de Meeus, Brussels.

Euronet
Telecommunications network jointly financed by the European communities and the PTTs to provide users throughout the community from January 1979 with reliable, rapid and cheap access to over 100 data banks containing scientific, technical and socio-economic information.

Eurom
European Federation of Precision and Optical Engineering Industries, 3 via Brisa, 20123, Milan.

FAEP
Federation of Associations of Periodical Publishers in the EEC, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, WC2.

FID
International Federation for Documentation, 7 Hofweg, The Hague. This federation is associated with Wipo (see below).

GTP
General tariff preferences, more correctly known as the generalised system of tariff preferences (GSP or GSTP).

Icom
International Council of Museums, Maison de l'Unesco, 1 rue Miolis, 75015 Paris.

IEA
International Energy Agency, 2 rue Andre Pascal, 75775 Paris.

IIC
International Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, 6 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BA.

Jet
Joint European torus. In October 1977, the decision was made by EEC research ministers to site the £120 million joint European torus thermonuclear fusion project at the UKAEA research centre at Culham, Oxfordshire.

Liber
Ligue de Bibliotheques Europeennes de Recherche (Association of European Research Libraries), The Library, European University Institute, Badia Fiesolana, San Domenico di Fiesole, Florence.

MCA
Monetary Compensatory Amounts. Charges and payments applied to prevent currency fluctuations from distorting agricultural trade given that community agricultural support prices are converted into national currencies at fixed representative rates.

MFA
Multi-Fibre Arrangement. This regulates international trade in textiles between Gatt signatories; the original MFA covered the period 1974-77 and was renewed for 1978-81.

Octi
Central Office for International Railway Transport. Facilitiates and ensures the application of conventions and constitutes a complete codification of international transport law relating to the carriage of goods, passengers and luggage by rail. 30 Gryphenhubeliweg, 3006 Berne.

Prest
Scientific and Technical Research Policy Committee, a specialist committee of the commission, superseded by Crest in 1974.

RDEC
European Research and Development Committee (= CERD).

UIA
Union of International Associations. Producers of various reference publications including the Yearbook of International Organisations and updating supplements. 1 rue aux Laines, 1000, Brussels.

UKIBEK
United Kingdom Insurance Brokers European Committee. Provides an advisory, investigatory and representational facility for British insurance brokers relative to any legislative or ancillary matter arising within the EEC.

Wipo
World Intellectual Property Organisation. Aims to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through co-operation among states and, where appropriate, in collaboration with any other international organisation.

Overseas trade news

Hopes for extending open trade system: Dell

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said on 16 March that he hoped more developing countries would become strong enough to introduce some degree of reciprocity in trade matters, and so extend the open trade system.

Mr Dell was speaking to the Associated Chambers of Commerce in New Delhi during his week's visit to India for trade and economic talks with Indian ministers and industrialists.

'For the developed world, including the UK,' Mr Dell said, 'I have no doubt that, although in particular cases like steel, textiles and clothing where greater protection is unavoidable in present circumstances, our long term interests lie in preserving the open trade system.'

Nevertheless, he said, it was a sign of the disarray into which the world economy has fallen that there was today widespread discussion in developed countries whether protectionism could be confined to particular sectors of industry or whether it had to become a way of life. Protectionist pressures were strengthening in the USA, and for developing countries this was also a critical issue. They would certainly be damaged by a spread of protectionism and a slower pace of growth in world trade. That was why an offer of some reciprocal acceptance of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade obligations by stronger developing countries would be particularly appropriated at the moment.

'The worrying thing is that so far none of the discussions that have taken place between world leaders and none of the summit conferences, have produced any real change in the situation', he said. 'Rather they have emphasised that however hard we strive for economic co-operation, the objective of more rapid growth in world trade continues to escape us. We are currently engaged in the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva. For us a positive multilateral trade negotiations result is highly desirable. It says much for our faith in the future of the open trading system that we continue to seek ways to liberalise trade even when economic recession is exerting pressures in exactly the opposite direction.'

'We see in the MTNs the possibility of redrawing the world's trading rules and making them more relevant to the likely economic circumstances of the 1980s. We have the objective of making the present Gatt safeguard arrangements selective. Of course selective action has been taken frequently in recent years. It is desirable that such action should be recognised to be within the rules. None of us, whether in India or in developed countries, can afford, in the present economic climate, to leave major industries, with all the wealth and employment they provide, exposed to sudden attack – particularly from countries with some outstandingly competitive industries that so far have taken good care that they do not suffer the inconvenience of competition from imports in other sectors' Mr Dell said.

Overseas commercial officers in UK soon

Overseas commercial officers from Gothenburg, Copenhagen and Sudan will be in the UK shortly, when they will be available for discussions.

T. Abraham, commercial officer in Gothenburg since June 1958 will be available in June; L. Rubinstein, commercial officer in Copenhagen since 1971, will be available in May; and Sayed Abdel Rahman Arabi, senior commercial officer, in Sudan since 1958, will also be available in May.

Commercial officers often have only limited time at their disposal and it is not always possible to fit everyone in. Where it is possible, firms are reminded that the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU are in close touch with all overseas commercial officers and can very often supply advice, or the information that applicants hoped to obtain at the interview. Outside London, the regional offices of the Department of Industry, Welsh and Scottish Offices and the Department of Commerce, Belfast, can also help.

British firms and organisations who wish to meet the officers are asked to write for an appointment, giving full details of the specific export problem and commodities involved. Firms in Northern Ireland should contact the Export Branch of the Department of Commerce, Belfast; those in Wales the Welsh Office, Cardiff, and those in Scotland, the Scottish Office, Glasgow. Firms in the eastern region and the London and south eastern region (and any organisation in the other regions who would prefer or be prepared if necessary to meet the officer in London) should write to Tours Section, Department of Trade, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. For all other regions firms should contact the appropriate Department of Industry regional office (exports).

Deadline extended for Israel mission

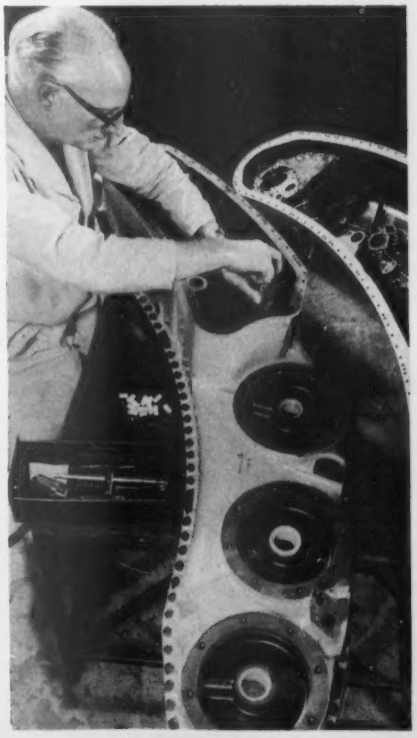
Companies interested in the outward mission to Israel mentioned in *Trade and Industry*, 3 March, should note that the deadline for entry has been extended to 31 March.

The mission is organised by the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel, and is of interest to those in the chemical, electrical and data processing industries.

For further details contact the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel at Michael House, Baker Street, London W1A 1DN, tel. 01-935 4422 ext. 7477, telex 28865.

Accessory gearbox on show in Tokyo

Assembling an accessory gearbox for the Rolls-Royce RB211, the casing of which was sand-cast using the Elektron ZRE1 process – a recent development from a southern England company that will be participating in the British aerospace exhibition in Tokyo from 16 to 20 May. The ZRE1 process uses an alloy specially selected for its elevated temperature creep resistance. The company, Magnesium Elektron Ltd (MEL), has been producing magnesium-based alloy castings since 1936, and its more recent specialised alloys have been designed to meet the exacting demands of the aerospace, armament and other high-technology industries. Typical applications range from helicopter gearboxes, electrical generator casings, airframe and engine components, and landing wheels. A total of 17 major British companies will participate in the exhibition at the British Marketing Export Centre, presenting a wide range of products and techniques of interest to the Japanese aerospace and associated industries.



THE publishes survey on electrical equipment

Technical Help to Exporters (THE), the export advisory service of the British Standards Institution, has published a multinational survey on the technical requirements that affect the export of electrical equipment used in flammable atmospheres.

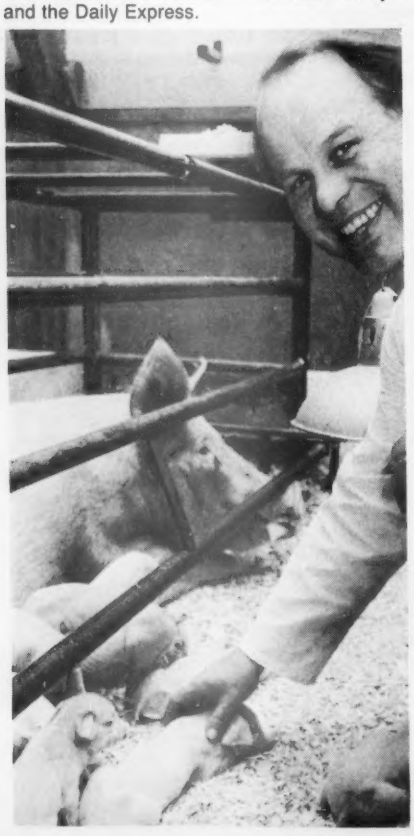
Each of the 17 countries covered is dealt with individually and each country section shows which regulation govern the use of electrical equipment in flammable atmospheres; how flammable substances and areas are classified compared with British and international classifications; which methods of explosion protection and which construction and testing standards are in common use; how certification can be obtained and whether UK or other certification is acceptable; whether test reports from other recognised testing stations can ease the granting of national certification; and details of relevant documents and published material.

This 200-page survey covers Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (FR), Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

'Electrical equipment for flammable atmospheres' is published in a loose-leaf binder and costs £60 to THE members and £80 to non-members. Copies are available from the Sales Office, Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ, tel. 0442 3111.

Lincoln firm wins export award

Malcolm Priest, customer services manager for Cotswold Pig Development Company, with some newly born Cotswold piglets. The Cotswold Pig Development Company, Rothwell, Lincoln is one of five firms which won this year's Export Award for Smaller Manufacturers. The award was presented by Lord Limerick at the Savoy Hotel, London on 14 March. The competition is sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, Association of British Chambers of Commerce, British Airways and the Daily Express.



Shields presented for Export Year

South West Export Association has awarded five companies with shields for achieving the most commendable increases in export turnover during Export Year.

The winning companies were Anthony B. Cox (Exports) Ltd of Bovey Tracey; Fitzgerald Lightring of Bodmin; Lownds Pateman Ltd of Torquay; Watts, Blake, Bearne and Co Ltd of Newton Abbott; and Webb and Bower Ltd of Exeter.

David Royce, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board's Export Year executive committee, presented the awards on 13 March.

East African community: British creditors

Dr V. Umbricht has been appointed mediator by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to recommend proposals for the permanent and equitable division of the assets and liabilities of the East African Community Corporations and General Fund Services.

Business firms and other organisations with claims outstanding against the East African Community Corporations and General Fund Services, are invited to send full details of their claims to Commercial Relations and Exports Division 5, Department of Trade, Room 337, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, in order to assist both the mediator and the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Details should include the name and address of buyer; goods or nature of service; date of contract; the original contract value with amounts of payments and due dates according to contract (indicating whether any payments have been made); the rate of contractual interest, as well as the actual amount, and the rate of past maturity interest, if specified in the contract (please distinguish between principal and interest); details of value of goods not yet shipped (if any); and the buyer's import licence number (if known).

Information given to CRE 5, Department of Trade, should not include claims already made in respect of East African Airways Corporation. Information given to CRE 5 is concerned with commercial debts uninsured by ECGD and should not include details of debts in respect of which claims have been or will be make to ECGD.

The transmission of information on uninsured commercial debts does not and should not prevent the pursuit of legal or other action to recover money owed, nor should it be taken as any guarantee that the claims will be met either in part or in full. This information is intended to demonstrate the size of uninsured commercial debts to UK creditors, so that it may be taken into account by the mediator and the east African governments concerned.

$20m British aid for Portugal

Britain is to provide a $20 million aid loan to Portugal following signature of an agreement in Lisbon on 10 March by the British ambassador and the governor of the Bank of Portugal. The loan is the UK contribution to a $750 million multilateral balance of payments facility for Portugal agreed by a consortium of 14 donor countries last June.

The aid, which will be paid over in two instalments of $10 million, is in addition to Britain's bilateral programme of capital assistance, technical co-operation and export financing for Portugal.

Changes in customs import entry and boarding procedures

On 1 April 1978 all import entry processing will change over to a revised manual system, and selective boarding will be introduced gradually. The procedures of Laces, local import control and period entry will not be affected. The precise effects at particular places will depend upon local circumstances and collectors are advising local trade interests as necessary.

On 1 November 1977 a new import entry form was brought into use nationally. On the same day a revised manual system for processing entries came into trial operation at Manchester Port, as the lead-in to the computerised version which will be introduced at a number of major ports. On 1 December pilot operation of the permanent manual system which will be used elsewhere started at the ports of Bristol and Edinburgh, and a selective boarding system came into operation at Avonmouth on the same date.

Entries will be completed as at present and delivered to entry processing units or entry processing points. As the entries will not be returned after official acceptance, payment slips where necessary will have to be delivered with them. The new procedures are generally expected to provide much improved import clearance times. In most ports, seminars are being arranged by collectors at which the changes will be explained in detail and questions answered.

Whereas at present all commercial vessels (including fishing vessels) are boarded by customs staff on arrival in the UK, selective boarding will operate in the future. This will involve some changes in procedures and documentation.

These changes are explained in notice 69,

ECGD cover for overseas fairs

As a supplement to the ordinary insurance policy exporters have with Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), cover is available for goods exhibited at fairs overseas against the rather special risks involved.

The standard cover includes sales at overseas fairs
Sales made at overseas fairs are covered under the standard ECGD policy against eventualities of loss, such as the insolvency of the buyer or his default, or exchange difficulties preventing transfer of payment from the buyer's country.

Special cover
Under a special policy supplementary to an exporter's main policy, ECGD can cover also the risks of loss arising while the goods are being exhibited or are on their way to be exhibited.

The risks covered are loss caused by destruction or damage resulting from war (including 'civil war, hostilities, rebellion and insurrection') occurring in the country where the goods are being exhibited or in a country through which the goods are travelling on their way to be exhibited,
or war between any of the countries involved,
or the requisition or confiscation of the goods in these countries,
or any measure or decision in the country where the goods are exhibited which prevents their re-export to the UK.

For more information about this special cover, get in touch with the nearest regional office of ECGD.

ECGD's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2. There are regional offices in:

Central London 01-437 2292 **North London** 01-808 4570 **South London** 01-686 9921 **Belfast** Belfast 31743 **Birmingham** 021-233 1771 **Bristol** Bristol 299971 **Cambridge** Cambridge 68801 **Glasgow** 041-332 8707 **Leeds** Leeds 450631 **Manchester** 061-228 3621

JAPAN

DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of partner hunting and negotiations with Japanese manufacturers in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

G. INOUYE, Managing Director
RAYDEN (JAPAN) LTD, Shokin Building, 11-12, 8-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: 571-8023/5. Telex: J26847 (Raydenco). Cables: Raydenco, TOKYO

Once you've won that precious export order — or even better when you are still at the negotiation stage — examine your delivery arrangements and transportation requirements. Chances are that your buyer has specified a deadline for delivery. No doubt you're confident you will make it, or at least that you will have the order produced well in advance of that critical date; but don't assume that getting the order to the buyer is the least of your worries, it could turn out to be your biggest headache.

You will need sound advice, accurate costings and detailed forward planning. The kind that is backed by years of experience in the Middle East markets. That's why we believe you should be calling on Astran International — for a number of sound reasons:

We've been specialising solely in The Middle East for nearly 15 years. In fact we pioneered direct overland services to the area back in 1963.

Over the past 2 years we have made a detailed study of the developing transport options available between The UK, Western Europe and The Middle East. We've put men into key areas of The Middle East to follow and assess test shipments by new routes and to develop our own facilities including a vehicle fleet based in The Gulf.

Our Management team has probably got more hard-earned years of Middle East freighting experience than any other company in the UK.

Call our
Export Shipping Department
on West Malling
(0732) 844444

ASTRAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP
At home in The Middle East
Middle East Freight Terminal, Addington, Nr. West Malling, Kent. Tel: (0732) 844444 Telex: 95424

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel. 01-606 6699). ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom, and these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

'Revised boarding procedures for commercial vessels', available from local offices of HM Customs and Excise.

Minister visits Paris agricultural shows

Edward Bishop, left, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, toured the British stands at the international agricultural exhibition and the international agricultural machinery exhibition held concurrently in Paris from 5 to 12 March. A total of 38 companies took part in the exhibitions with the backing of the British Overseas Trade Board. In the livestock section, British breeders presented Devon and Friesian cattle, a Hereford bull and Dorset sheep. There was also an English pub – a traditional feature of the British participation at these annual events. On show in the agricultural machinery section were several new British products including irrigation equipment and a trailer stacker unit. The agricultural publications' stands attracted much interest. In 1977 total exports of agricultural machinery to France amounted to £28.2 million. The figure for livestock was £25.6 million and for animal foodstuff £8.4 million. Worldwide exports for the same year were respectively £584 million, £109.5 million and £60.5 million.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, Norway, and Yemen Arab Republic have been published in the *Hints to business men* series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7145/6, or any regional office of the Department of Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd, 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel: 01-267 1285.

Trade mission to Venezuela planned

Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre Ltd is sponsoring an outward trade mission to Venezuela from 21 October to 4 November 1978 with the option of a side visit to Mexico within this period if required. The mission has been arranged in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board.

The mission is open principally to those connected with engineering and/or building but applications are invited from all companies wishing to develop trade with Venezuela and also Mexico. The basic mission itinerary has been planned to provide two full weeks based on Caracas with the option of a side visit to Mexico City if required. If demand exists arrangements are available for a subgroup to visit this other market for a few days in the middle of the two weeks.

Further details from Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre, Overseas Division, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2DB, tel. 021-643 1914.

Seminar on Israel's technical industries

Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce in conjunction with the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce is to hold a seminar on Israel's technical industries on Tuesday, 11 April.

The opening address will be given by Michael Sieff, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel, and other speakers will include leading industrialists and the European director of Israel's Investment Authority. Israel's technical industries are still developing and many opportunities exist for the formation of joint-venture companies with Israeli enterprises or for capital investment of other kinds. Those participating in the seminar will hear of the incentives for investment in Israel and learn of the advantages of manufacturing in Israel which, through its associate membership of the EEC, has duty-free access to that market as well as preferential access to the US market. The seminar will also be of interest to British importers.

Since 1967, Israel had made remarkable progress in the development of industries requiring an extremely high degree of technical expertise. Computer, electronics, engineering and plastics industries have been established and some of the most sophisticated products in the world are produced in Israel. However, Israel is a small country with a small population and, in many cases, it is not economic to produce the machines which manufacture these products or to manufacture all the components and many opportunities exist for the supply of components.

Further information from: Graham Ashmore, Overseas Department, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 203 or Lindsay Ward-Jones, Press Officer, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 267.

UK equipment for Indonesian electricity development

Britain is providing aid grants totalling £2.8 million to Indonesia to assist the development of the country's electricity supplies. The money will be used for the purchase of eight British diesel generator sets, spares and ancillary equipment for isolated power stations on various islands off the east coast of Java. The equipment is to be manufactured by Ruston Diesels Ltd of Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

Rehabilitation of Indonesia's electricity network is a high priority in the country's development plans. An expanded and improved electricity supply will assist in increasing the power supplies available for the production of local goods and services and will help particularly in developing the natural resources of rural areas.

Double taxation arrangement with the United States . . .

In a written answer to a parliamentary question, Denzil Davies Minister of State at the Treasury, said that the Inland Revenue has recently entered into a working arrangement with the United States Internal Revenue Service for the simultaneous examination of the affairs of related taxpayers with substantial operations in both countries.

The UK double taxation convention with the United States provides for the exchange of information in order to carry out the purposes of the convention, to prevent fiscal evasion and to administer the statutory provisions against legal avoidance, under rules which protect the confidentiality of information about the affairs of taxpayers. The working arrangement was made under the terms of these provisions.

Under it each country's tax authority will separately examine the affairs of taxpayers within its own jurisdiction but the tax authorities will co-ordinate their examination

of important cases in order to make more efficient and effective use of their powers to exchange information.

. . . Philippines convention published . . .

The double taxation convention with the Republic of the Philippines has been published as a schedule to an order in council, SI 1978 no. 184. Instruments of ratification were exchanged on 23 December 1977 and the convention entered into force on 23 January 1978. It applies in the United Kingdom for income tax and capital gains tax from 6 April 1977 and for corporation tax from 1 April 1977.

. . . and discussions continue with Belgium

Discussions at official level were held in Brussels during the week beginning 6 February about a new comprehensive double taxation convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium to replace the convention between the two countries signed on 29 August 1967.

A wide measure of agreements was reached and the discussions will be resumed in the near future.

Korean Economic Planning Board delegation in London

Hwa-June Tchah, left, director general of the Economic Co-operation Bureau of the Economic Planning Board, Korean Ministry of Finance, leader of a delegation from the Republic of Korea with Mr G. Nichols, chairman of the Korea Trade Advisory Group and chairman of the UK-Korea Economic Co-operation Group, on 15 March, when they met to discuss economic co-operation between the UK and Korea. Mr Tchah led a six-man delegation on a four-day visit to Britain which was organised by the VIP section of the British Overseas Trade Board's Overseas Visitors Bureau.

Changes in ECGD's foreign currency financing scheme

The Export Credits Guarantee Department on 17 March announced the following changes, which take effect immediately, in its scheme for financing capital goods exports through foreign currency buyer credits. For export contracts with a loan value of up to £5 million, while ECGD will generally expect to see non-sterling financing, the department will not now insist upon the use of foreign currency where the exporter or his financial advisers consider there is an advantage in using sterling.

For exports to EEC countries where the length of credit does not exceed five years a similar option on sterling or currency financing will apply, irrespective of loan values.

Since ECGD's first foreign-currency financed buyer credits were concluded in May 1977 over 30 loans totalling some $800 million have been made to support project exports. A number of other large currency loans are expected to be concluded shortly and foreign currency business under active consideration exceeds $2,000 million. These figures indicate the degree of success achieved in switching a substantial proportion of the UK's project export credit support into foreign currency financing and the new flexible rules have been introduced against this background.

They do not affect the government's primary objective of seeing as much of the larger value of export business as possible financing in foreign currency, because of the benefits this carries from the standpoint of public expenditure, monetary aggregates and the balance of payments capital account. The policy of requiring foreign currency financing for the majority of large project contracts will therefore be maintained.

Japan potential market for UK educational goods

Japan is a huge potential market for British educational products – details of which are given in *The Japanese Market for Educational Equipment and Teaching Materials*, published on 7 March by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1671: Surveillance licensing of cutlery imports

Traders should note that from 10 April 1978 the UK is to introduce national prior surveillance licensing for imports of cutlery. Accordingly, on and after 10 April 1978, the following goods consigned to the UK from any non-EEC country may be imported into the UK only under an individual import licence:

Tariff heading	Description of goods
82.09	Knives with cutting blades, serrated or not (including pruning knives), other than knives falling within heading no. 82.06 and blades therefor.
82.12	Scissors (including tailors' shears), and blades therefor.
82.14	Spoons, forks, fish-eaters, butter-knives, ladles, and similar kitchen or tableware.
82.15	Handles of base metal for articles falling within heading no. 82.09, 82.13 or 82.14.

Licensing arrangements

Licences will be valid for three months and will be freely issued upon application on form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch at the above address. Separate applications must be made in respect of goods of each eight-digit UK overseas trade classification number within the descriptions of the products as categorised above.

Quantities should be stated both in numbers of pieces (expressed in dozens) and in kg, and in addition to the information to be entered on form ILB/A, traders must specify:

1 where an application relates to a proposed importation of boxed sets or canteens, the numbers and description of each separate item making up such boxed sets or canteens;
2 in the case of knives, forks and spoons, whether they are being imported in a finished or unfinished state; and
3 in *all* cases (including boxed sets and canteens), whether the items to be imported are of stainless steel or of other metal.

Each application should also be accompanied by evidence of order.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 388.

1672: Imports of textiles from Pakistan

Notice to importers 1649, *Trade and Industry*, 6 January 1978, stated that goods subject to quotas established under the EEC-Pakistan textile agreement would be licensed under the transitional arrangements set out in that notice, until such time as the Pakistani authorities were ready to undertake administration of the quotas.

It has now been agreed with the EEC commission that Pakistan will begin export-administration with effect from 20 March 1978. Traders wishing to import goods of Pakistani origin falling within the categories subject to quota as set out in NTI 1649 should, if they are not already in possession of a valid import licence, obtain from their supplier a valid 1978 export certificate in respect of any such goods shipped after 19 March 1978. The export certificate should be submitted together with the licence application on form ILB/A, to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above, who will issue import licences up to the agreed limits.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 367.

Ignorance means missed opportunities

Little is generally known in the UK about the Democratic Republic of Madagascar – not least about the commercial opportunities for British exporters. John Chapman, first secretary (commercial) at the British high commission in Dar es Salaam, fills in some of the gaps.

Separated from the African mainland by some 280 miles of the Mozambique Channel, Madagascar is a massive island. With a land area of 230 000 sq miles and a length of 980 miles, it is in fact the world's fourth largest island, and it is probably its scale and beauty which most impress the new visitor. Geographically it divides broadly into three main areas: the high plateau occupying more than half of the island, the coastal strip and the hot, dry and relatively poor plains in the south and west.

The UK has played a significant historical role in Madagascar and for most of the nineteenth century we were the most important foreign country there. Following French colonisation our links declined. They have recovered little since independence, and although our level of exports grows steadily it remains very small: in 1975 we sold only £1.8 million of goods to Madagascar, in 1976 £2.7 million and in 1977 (extrapolating from figures now available) some £3 million.

This is accounted for principally by whisky, gin, cigarettes, tractors, Land-Rovers and agricultural equipment. The figures are disappointing since it means we are selling, in real terms, less than we did in the late 1960s, so that our small percentage of the market has declined.

Former French colony

The most significant reason for this is that Madagascar is a former French colony and as a result British exports until recently faced two major barriers. Before the 'revolution' of 1972 the French exercised a very powerful influence over the economy, through the machinery of the franc zone and the presence of many expert advisers in the government and their domination of the market was almost total. Second, until our accession to the EEC we were effectively excluded from much business in Madagascar by preferential tariffs and quota restrictions. Both these barriers have now disappeared as a result of the Lomé convention, and have been replaced by a positive government policy to diversify away from old suppliers which should provide greater opportunities for British exporters. Unfortunately we are not at present taking advantage of these opportunities, mainly, I think, because of ignorance of the possibilities in the changed climate.

The economy

The economy of Madagascar is predominantly agricultural. Its main crops are coffee, vanilla, groundnuts, rice, cloves, sugar cane, sisal, butter beans and pepper; in the 1976-77 season production of most of these (and most importantly of rice) increased. But the mining sector also has considerable potential. Chromite, graphite, mica and semi-precious stones, for example, have been exported for some time and attention has now been turned to the exploitation of bauxite and ilmenite.

Despite a relatively weak budgetary situation, the country has, in my view, a fundamental economic soundness. Its potential for development lies mainly in its varied geographic features (despite the considerable infrastructural problems) and climatic conditions, its under-population (8.4 million), land (the reserves of arable soil are said to represent 10 times the area at present under cultivation), its livestock resources (over 10 million cattle, for example) and its diligent and creative people.

Although in recent years economic growth has barely kept pace with population growth, trends are encouraging and gdp is thought, mainly as a result of increased agricultural output, to have increased by over 4 per cent last year. There is a low debt service ratio (about 6 per cent) and in 1976 as a result of good export earnings (admittedly due to high world prices) coupled with tight import controls (involving a major switch in balance from consumer to capital goods and an estimated reduction of imports by 40–45 per cent in comparison with pre-1973 levels) together with other special factors, Madagascar had a balance of payments surplus. Whilst there was a reversion to a deficit in 1977 it has been forecast that, despite extensive crop damage by cyclones and flooding (affecting inter alia coffee production) the deficit will be reduced to a moderate level in 1978. For a non-oil producing developing country which had regular deficits of the order of 20 to 30 per cent in the first years of independence this is very creditable.

The export opportunities

How do British exporters take advantage of the situation? In the first instance, they need to understand the importation system which involves import licences and annual global quotas. Only commercial concerns agreed as importers are allowed to import. This means, for example, state corporations, nationalised or state-controlled companies and specific groups of companies. The last of these can import lines in which they specialise but they must, for instance, have at least five branches or agencies in at least three provinces and have annual imports of not less than 300 million Malagasy francs[1]. Preference is given to state and Malagasy companies. Details of the import quotas and regulations are available in the Overseas Tariffs and Regulations section at the Department of Trade.

The market for consumer goods is still relatively small, and it would be a mistake to

[1] £1 = approximately 460 Malagasy francs.

> "As a former resident (and, until last month, non-resident) ambassador to Madagascar I have a special interest in present and historic UK links with the island. Our exports there, although growing, are in real terms less than they were in the late 1960s: indeed over the last few years our small percentage of the market has declined. This is disappointing since previous barriers to our trade have been removed. Now that we are members of the EEC there is no reason why our exports should not multiply several times over. I believe that some businessmen may have been discouraged by experiences in the 1960s when French domination of the market was almost total, and I hope this short article will encourage them to look afresh at trading with Madagascar in the entirely different circumstances of today."
>
> **Mervyn Brown**
> **former British high commissioner to Tanzania and ambassador to Madagascar**

underestimate the Frenchness of the island. The taste is French, the lines of communications are towards France and established agencies tend to have links with France and to have stocks of French goods. Change is in train, but it is a slow process.

Capital goods

On the capital goods side, it is broadly in the development field (including agriculture, agro-industries, mining and communications) that opportunities lie. Recent specific opportunities published through the Department of Trade's Export Intelligence Service include World Bank rural development assistance, European development fund (EDF) loans for rural and water engineering microproject programmes as well as for the supply of motor vehicles, provision of various requirements for the ship-repair yard, supply of cement and flour and various products connected with the petroleum industry and the equipping of a hospital and rural health centres.

Projects planned include a factory to produce urea using the petroleum by-products from the Tamatave refinery, a compost factory using household refuse, concentrated iron ore production, coal mining, production of insecticides, sugar, asphalt, ceramics and cement, pharmaceutical and wood pulp factories and a ferrochrome plant. Power for the last of these will be supplied from a major hydro scheme financed by several international agencies. Whilst the design and probably much of the supply will be Canadian, construction and generator supply will in due course go out to international tender.

Particular opportunities

In these projects as well as in, for example, tourism development, new roads, consultancies, extensive new railway equipment needs, education projects and the military field, there are particular opportunities for British suppliers and consultants. In the invisibles sector there may also be scope for opportunities for shipping lines and in insurance. We can and should greatly increase our exports. A main plank for this might well be the extensive EDF programme of which we currently get much less than our fair share. And the commercial opportunities might well be enhanced by the planned visit to the UK of the Malagasy Minister of Economy and Commerce, Justin Rarivoson, later this year.

That there are difficulties in regard to the need to communicate in French, the problems of getting the desired visa with no Malagasy embassy in London and the lack of direct shipping services is not in question. But other countries, notably West Germany ($32 million in 1975) and the USA ($26 million – compared with France, $132 million) do good business.

Advice from Dar es Salaam

Responsibility for commercial work in Madagascar lies with the British high commission in Dar es Salaam. We are always pleased to offer advice on trading conditions. But on-the-spot help is also available from our consulate in Antananarivo. Businessmen may well find it desirable to combine a visit to Tanzania with one to Madagascar since communications between the two are good, and bona fide businessmen can obtain visas for Madagascar from the embassy in Dar es Salaam.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Good business done at Florence shoe fair

From commercial office, British consulate, Florence

From 4 to 8 March, Bologna has been the focus of Italian and international shoe business with the Modacalzatura shoe fair, attracting leather and footwear manufacturers and dealers from all over the world.

The number of exhibitors participating in the thirty-second Modacalzatura was larger than last year (1364 as against 1295 in 1977), exhibiting men's, women's and children's footwear including casualwear. Pavilions occupied this year were 14 as against 13 in 1977 covering an area of 65 000 m².

Of the exhibitors 97 were foreign firms coming from 17 different countries. There were three official joint ventures, one from Britain and the other two from India and Austria.

Eleven footwear manufacturers, nine of whom had exhibited in the past, took part in the British Overseas Trade Board sponsored joint venture.

All the British exhibitors grouped in the joint venture acknowledged the international importance of this event and most of them indicated their willingness to be present next year. They also commented most favourably on various contacts made during the fair and business done was slightly increased in volume, compared to last year, a good result in view of the general economic situation.

Successful UK presence at Detroit car show

From E. Busby, British consulate-general, Detroit

At this year's annual congress and exposition of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) held in Detroit from 27 February to 2 March, a record number of British manufacturers gave convincing proof of their leading position in the development of components and technology for the down-sized vehicles to which the United States automobile builders are committed. The latter are involved in a multi-billion dollar programme of reducing the size and weight of their cars to achieve government-mandated fuel economy standards.

Every year since 1969 the number of exhibitors had increased until out of the 190 exhibitors, 29 were from Britain. All but nine were 'repeaters' and the 23 200 engineering, production and purchasing executives who visited the show saw examples of British-built steering gears, wheels, clutches, drive-shafts, fans, suspension joints and other components which are being incorporated in United States-built vehicles. They saw evidence, too, of the determination of British component manufacturers to capitalise further on their experience in the small car field by setting up manufacturing plants in the USA and by establishment of United States-based subsidiaries whose sales and engineering teams furnish the back-up which is essential for doing business with the giant United States auto industry.

As in previous years, GKN and Lucas both had large stands on which were exhibited representative products of a number of their subsidiary companies. GKN announced receipt of two orders totalling about $8 million for aluminum alloy wheels for new model cars to be produced by Chrysler and Ford in 1979. GKN is already supplying front-wheel drive components for the new 1978 Chrysler front-wheel drive cars and recently announced plans to build a manufacturing plant in North Carolina to become operative in 1980. Lucas's United States subsidiary moved into large, new, suburban Detroit headquarters in October 1977, and is in the process of building a new plant in South Carolina to manufacture fuel-injection equipment for the burgeoning diesel engine market in the United States.

Automotive Products Ltd, already furnishing clutches to the United States automotive and tractor market, announced a United States subsidiary in suburban Detroit to provide sales, engineering and manufacturing back-up for its north American customers.

Left to right, Roy Fenner, regional manager USA, and Len Potter, general sales and marketing director, Automotive Products, in conversation with Gordon Booth, British consul-general and director general trade development USA, at the Detroit show.

Overseas trade export services

Freight groupage service to Bermuda

Wingate and Johnson has been appointed approved groupage consolidators by the United States Lines for a deep-sea container service to Bermuda via New York. The service operates at a frequency of once a week.

Freight for consolidation can be received at any of five Wingate and Johnson depots situated in London, Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Manchester or Braehead, Renfrew, Scotland.

In New York the containers are transferred to the United States Lines container ship *American Islander* which sails on a weekly schedule and lands the cargo in Hamilton, Bermuda every Monday. This service connects with the transatlantic sailings and the overall transit time from the port of Felixstowe to Bermuda is 17 days.

Further information: circle 495

Middle East course on companies premises

Bernard Butler's five-day Middle East orientation course, which includes some 250 words of colloquial Arabic as well as social and historical subjects, has been adapted so that it can be presented on companies' own premises and allow those participating to return to their offices for up to an hour each morning and afternoon. This provides a compromise between training needs and executive pressures.

The syllabus includes an introduction to Islam; historical geography of the near and Middle East; attitudes; greetings and courtesies and practising colloquial Arabic. A tape cassette of the vocabulary lists as well as an alphabetically indexed pocket book are provided to each participant as memory aids.

Further information: circle 497

Gatwick ties in with Laces

Gatwick Airport is to be tied in with Laces, the London Airport computer scheme that cuts clearance time for imports at Heathrow to a matter of hours. The system should be working at Gatwick Airport by the autumn.

Laces – London Airport Cargo Electronic-data-processing Scheme – is used by 200 separate organisations involved in handling cargo landed at Heathrow. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Gatwick link was approved at the January meeting of the Laces steering group on which the users are represented – international airlines, forwarding agents and Customs and Excise – and the Post Office's national data processing service which operates the system.

Operating Laces at Gatwick is expected to involve 10 visual display units, 10 character printers and a communications controller at the airport. The controller governs the access of vdus to the Laces computer.

The service will be provided to Customs and Excise, two airlines – British Airways and British Caledonian Airways – who are already Laces users at Heathrow, and other airlines and forwarding agents.

Further information: circle 498

Travel firm offers package to Budapest fair

Barry Martin Travel has put together an inclusive six-night package on an individual basis for exhibitors at the Budapest Spring Fair, from 17 to 25 May. The package includes a choice of five hotels, all centrally situated and within easy reach of the fair.

Rates per person depend on choice of hotel, and range from £195.50, twin room at the Hotel Szabadsag to £269, single room at the Hilton Hotel. Additional nights can be booked at from £9.75 to £22.00.

Visitors to the fair are offered a three-night package, again on an individual basis and with a choice of five hotels, at rates from £170 to £206.50 per person. Additional nights available from £9.75 to £22.00.

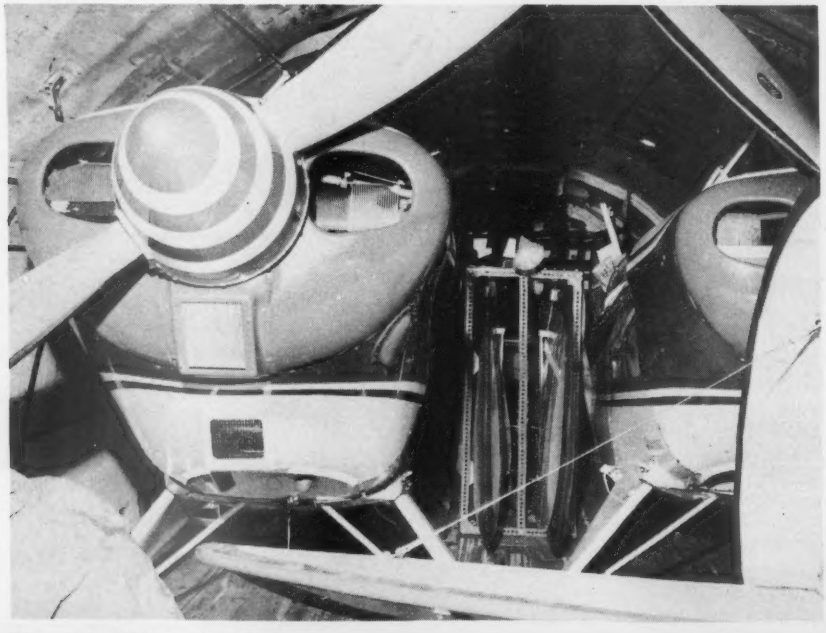
All rates for each package include scheduled air services London/Budapest/London, airport/hotel transfers, BMT on-site representative, and a visa service. Self-drive and chauffered cars can also be supplied at local rates.

Further information: circle 499

Aircraft airfreighted to Abidjan

Five complete Pitts special aeroplanes loaded into a Transmeridian air cargo (TAC) CL44 swingtail freighter, before being flown to Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The planes belong to the Rothmans team. TAC's CL44 was chartered on behalf of Rothmans by Oceanair Freight Ltd.

Further information: circle 496



Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is:
EEC Information Unit,
Department of Industry,
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Airfreight company opens Luton depot

Mitchell Cotts Airfreight (UK) Ltd has opened a new air freight depot at Luton.

The new depot is able to offer customers a complete air freight and express national distribution service. This includes the availability of some 300 m² of warehousing and storage.

The additional space will enable the company to offer customers a faster and more efficient service, with a 24-hour delivery throughout the United Kingdom.

The Luton base will also act as a delivery and collection point for Mitchell Cotts Airfreight national distribution and the services of Wisk Air Cargo Ltd, its air charter operation. New and existing customers in an area roughly bound by Northampton, Cambridge, Denham and East London will benefit from the new depot.

Further information: circle 500

Meadows publishes details of airfreight services

Meadows Airfreight has recently published the seventh edition of its *Worldwide Airfreight Tariff*. The tariff provides detailed information on export and import scheduled consolidation services offered by the company. Full information on service frequency for export movements and Meadows' increasing range of airfreight import services is given, together with comprehensive information on rates.

Tabulated data sections are accompanied by a breakdown of specific commodity descriptions; details of available collection and delivery services throughout the UK; notes on terminology of unit load devices (ULDs) and on destinations served by Meadows Air Charter Ltd (MACL).

To assist importers this latest issue also provides comprehensive notes on the services available through the nationwide airport offices operated by Meadows. These are at Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London (Gatwick), London (Heathrow), Manchester, Norwich, Prestwick, Southend and Teesside.

Further information: circle 501

Gothenburg terminal for EWL services

EWL – the transport division of Ellerman Lines Ltd – has announced that from 1 April, the cargo terminal for its ro-ro services between Hull and Gothenburg will be transferred at Gothenburg from quay 644 Hull-London terminal, Skandiahamnen to the Tor Line terminal also situated at Skandiahamnen.

As from 1 April EWL Shipping AB, Box 8911, Skandiahamnen, S-402 73 Gothenburg 8, tel. 54 02 30, telex 20876 EWL SHIP has been appointed new agents in Sweden.

EWL is maintaining the twice-weekly service between Hull and Gothenburg, following the withdrawal by Svea Line from the joint EWL/Svea service. Sailings are from Hull every Monday and Thursday and from Gothenburg every Wednesday and Saturday.

Further information: circle 502

Export markets found on mailing system

Eurocom Export Services are launching a direct mailing system on a subscription basis to assist small exporters in finding export markets for their products.

For an annual subscription of £7.50, details of each subscribers' products will be circulated monthly to overseas commercial attaches, chambers of commerce, overseas buying groups in the UK and overseas agents/distributors.

The circulation list will initially be 150. One third of the distribution list will change monthly, so as to guarantee regular subscribers the maximum possible results. This number will be increased if there is sufficient support for the scheme.

Further information: circle 503

Courier service started to Mexico

Skyfreight Ltd has started an express courier service between the UK and Mexico.

This service is designed to assist British companies trading with Mexico by providing a two-way flow for letters, documents and small packages on a door-to-door basis. It will offer delivery in a much shorter period of time than regular air mail system and at a lower cost than by scheduled air services.

It eliminates the need for costly and time-consuming telex communications by ensuring prompt delivery of information that would otherwise have to be sent by telex.

Further information: circle 504

Sutcliffe opens warehouse in Smethwick

John Sutcliffe and Son (Grimsby) Ltd and one of its major subsidiaries, Confill (UK) Ltd, opened a specially designed 1579 m² warehouse at the James Watt Industrial Park, Rabone Lane, Smethwick on 17 March.

The Rabone Lane development, which is expected to increase Sutcliffe Group turnover by more than £1 million a year, will house the activities of the international trailer division of John Sutcliffe and Son and the consolidation and distribution requirements of Confill (UK) Ltd.

The depot has been planned to accelerate the expansion of Sutcliffe (Birmingham branch) and Confill services by providing substantially more warehousing and parking facilities and is expected to make a material contribution to the ever-increasing freight and transport requirements of the industrial Midlands.

Sutcliffe Group back-up services, including the number of collection and delivery vehicles operated, are being expanded in line with the growth in warehouse space.

The new 50 m by 32 m warehouse features three tailboard loading bays and three ground-level loading bays: it has the capacity to handle six 12 m-containers or semi-trailers simultaneously and many smaller delivery and collection vehicles. The Rabone Lane site was specifically chosen because of its nearness to the motorway network system and to the group's existing warehouse unit in Anne Road, Smethwick.

Further information: circle 505

The new John Sutcliffe and Son and Confill (UK) Ltd depot at Rabone Lane, Smethwick.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Official valuations. The Argentine Ministry of Economy have passed resolution, 1143/77, of 14 November 1977 which changes the official valuations in tariff headings 84.10 and 84.62.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Import tariff. The Argentine Ministry of Economy have passed resolution 191/78 of 25 January 1978 which has amended and reduced the duty on some items in chapters 84 and 85.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Domestic refrigerators, washing machines and clothes dryers. The Australian government report a further interim quota allocation valid for the period 1 March 1978 to 31 August 1978 as follows:

Refrigerators	
200–454 litres	3 750 units
exceeding 454 litres	1 250 units
Washing machines	20 000 units
Clothes dryers	35 000 units

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Assembled passenger motor vehicles. The Australian government now estimates that the passenger motor vehicle market in 1978 may not reach the level forecast when the quota level of 94 000 was determined. In these circumstances a final allocation of quota for 1978 will not be made at this time until the market position becomes clearer. Import licences based on the further interim allocation will be forwarded to licence holders as soon as possible.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Footwear and parts for footwear, brassieres. The Australian government has announced that the following percentage factors will apply in allocating quotas for footwear, parts for footwear and brassieres for the period 1 July 1978 to 31 December 1978. The period of validity for allocation will be from 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979.

Global leather	16.4%
Global non-leather	18.7%
Global canvas	17.32%
Global parts VFD	59.25%
Brassieres	23%

Approximate quota for footwear can be calculated by multiplying the supplementary quota allocation (ie the allocation for quota period commencing 1 January 1978) by the following figure: global leather, 1.302; global non-leather, 0.974; global canvas, 0.970; global parts VFD, 0.799.

A further announcement from the Australian government is expected shortly concerning the administration of the anomalies scheme as it relates to the above goods in respect of the quota period commencing 1 July 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

High-priced footwear. The Australian government has announced that footwear exceeding a value for duty of $A 22.50 per pair is exempt from import licensing; and as from 1 July 1978 exemption will apply to footwear having a value for duty exceeding $A 23.50 per pair.

This 'threshold' price level is adjusted each six months in line with movements in the footwear component of the Australian consumer price index.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Brazil

Lead monosilicate. Customs policy council edital 894, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 2 February gave notice that the council was considering a proposed increase in the import duty on lead monosilicate, under tariff number 28.45.06.00, from 15 per cent to 45 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Screw calibrators. Customs policy council edital 893, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 2 February 1978, gave notice that the council was considering an increase in the import duty on screw calibrators of all kinds, under tariff number 90.16.02.00 'ex', of from 15 per cent to 45 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Extension of concessions on cinematographic equipment. Decree law 1591, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 22 December 1977, extended, until 31 December 1980, the period of duty exemption on cinematographic equipment, granted under decree-law, 1211, of 1 March 1972. Such imports are subject to the approval of the Plenario of the Conselho Nacional do Cinema, which will take into account the interests of the national cinema industry.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Anatomical models. Customs policy council resolution 3107, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 22 February 1978, increased the import duty on anatomical models for instruction, under tariff number 90.21.03.00 from 0 per cent to 15 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty reductions on catalysts. Customs policy council resolution, 3097, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 22 February, reduced the import duty on catalysts, under tariff number 38.19.15.99, from 15 per cent to 0 per cent, where these are to be used in the manufacture of piped gas from naphtha, and do not have a national similar. The user will be obliged to prove the use to which the product has been put.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Acrylic fibres. Customs policy council resolution, 3096, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 22 February, increased the import duty on acrylic fibres, under tariff number 56.01.01.03, acrylic cord, under tariff number 56.02.01.03 and acrylic gauze under tariff number 56.04.01.03, from 55 per cent to 85 per cent for a period of two years, expiring on 22 February 1980.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Clinical thermometers. Customs policy council resolution, 3093, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 22 February, increased the import duty on maximum and minimum thermometers for clinical use, under tariff number 90.23.05.01, from 9 per cent to 39 per cent for a period of two years, expiring on 22 February 1980.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty rates on chemical products. Customs policy council resolutions, 3091, 3092, 3094, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3101, 3102, 3103 and 3108, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 and 22 February 1978, made extensive alterations in the tariff in regard to chemical products. The amendments are as follows:

Tariff no./Goods	Alteration
25.30.02.00 Calcium borate	Import duty reduced from 115% to 15%
29.01.48.02 Orthoxylene	Import duty reduced from 30% to 10% for a period until 30 June 1978, for a quota of 3000 tonnes
29.08.31.00 Ethylene glycol ethers **29.08.32.00** Diethylene glycol ethers **29.08.34.00** Diethylene glycol **29.13.24.00** Methyl-heptyl-ketone **29.14.18.07** Butyl acrylate	Import duty increased from 15% to 45% for a period of two years. Expires on 22 February 1980
29.21.99.00 0-2, 4-dichlorophenyl-0, 0-diethyl phosphorothioate (Dichlorfention), in a minimum concentration of 95%	Included in the annex to resolution 2941 which exempted goods for agriculture from import duty
29.23.03.00 Monoethanolamine **29.23.04.00** Diethanolamine	Increase in import duty from 15% to 45% for a period of two years, expires 22 February 1980

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Tariff no./Goods	Alteration
29.23.23.00 Monosodium glutamate	Duty increased from 15% to 45%
29.23.99.00 'ex' Ethambutol	Import duty increased from 15% to 45% for a period of two years. Expires on 22 February 1980
29.25.99.00 3-(3, 4-dichlorophenyl)-1, 1-dimethyl urea (Diuron) in a minimum concentration of 98%	Included in the annex to resolution 2941 which exempted goods for agriculture from import duty
29.26.99.00 Acetylethyleneimine (AEI) in a minimum concentration of 98.5% 1, 5-di-(2, 4-dimethylphenyl)-3-methyl-1, 3, 5-triaxapenta-1, 4-diene (technical Amitraz) in a minimum concentration of 93%	
29.29.99.00 Crude rearranged oximes (60% -65% cyclo-hexanone-oxime isomer; 35%-40% water; pH 6-7 ± 1% impurities)	Duty reduction from 15% to 0% until 30 June 1978 for a quota of 30 000 tonnes
29.35.48.01 Epsilon caprolactam	Duty increased from 17% to 30%
29.36.99.00 Sodium N'-(6-chloro-2-pyrazil) sulphanilamide hydrate (sodium sulphachloro pyradazine)	In annex to resolution 2941, the words 'in a minimum concentration of 99%' are added
29.42.35.00 Morphine	Reduction in duty from 15% to 0% for a period of one year. Expires 22 February 1979
29.42.99.00 4(3H) quinazolinone-7-bromo-6-chloro 3-(3-hydroxy-2-piperidyl) acetophenyl) DL-trans bromohydrate, in a minimum concentration of 99.5%	Included in the annex to resolution 2941, which exempted products intended for agriculture from duty
29.47.07.00 Streptomycin sulphate, technical grade, with a minimum potency of 600 mg of active streptomycin per gramme of salt	

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Finland

Marking of sales containers. Decree 279/77, amended the Finnish regulations concerning the marking of sales containers of foodstuffs and most consumer goods. However, the timetable for complying with these regulations has now been extended as follows: manufacturers, persons who have the goods prepared or manufactured on their behalf, packers, and importers if the goods are imported prepacked, may offer for sale until the end of September 1980, and retailers and other suppliers until the end of September 1981, products not complying with the regulations. An unofficial translation of the regulations is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

Iron and steel imports. The Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry announced on 28 February that 39 iron and steel products in the following tariff headings will, with effect from 10 March, be subject to surveillance licensing 73.01, 73.08, 73.10, 73.11, 73.12, 73.13, 73.15. The importer will be responsible for obtaining licences, which will be required by customs before clearance. Application forms are obtainable from the Finnish Licence Board and can be stamped and returned to the importer within two days of submission. According to the ministry there is no intention of restricting imports; the purpose of the licensing is purely to monitor the growth of imports in certain product areas.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

Israel

Import duty amendments. The following import duty amendments have been announced:

CCCN No./Description	new import duty rate for UK goods
04.03 Butter	IL 4.50 per kg (including container)
ex 34.02 Lauryl alcohol sulphate and lauryl alcohol sulphonate in packings containing over 10 kg	8%
ex 39.07 Hard plastic discs (such as hard casein and hard gelatine) of a thickness exceeding 1.3 mm	IL 0.75 per kg +12%
ex 48.05 Paper and paperboard corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets): – made of three layers of corrugated paperboard and released before 1.10.78	exempt
– other	8%
ex 59.03 Fabrics (other than adhesive, without any detachable protective layer) of a size not exceeding 30×30 cm designed for wrapping dyeing tubes in textile dye-works, provided their weight per m² does not exceed 30 g.	16%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Ivory Coast

Economic plan. An English summary, in microfiche format, of the Ivory Coast's economic, social and cultural plan 1976-80, is available for inspection/loan from the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Room D16, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368/369.

Ghana

Closure of Kotoka international airport, Accra. Intending business visitors to Ghana are advised that Kotoka International Airport, Accra will be closed from 10 to 20 April for major repairs to be effected to the main runway.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064.

Jamaica

Foreign exchange. Exporters should be aware that an acute shortage of foreign exchange is causing the Bank of Jamaica to exercise increasingly rigid control on payments for imports. Recent experience indicates that no draft letters of credit in excess of 1,000 Jamaican dollars are being granted funds. Goods are starting to accumulate on wharves. The Bank of Jamaica hope to ameliorate the situation as soon as possible but delays and restrictions seem likely to continue for some time.

Mexico

Tariff amendments. Acuerdos published in the *Diario Oficial* of 15 February, and subsequently, have made further amendments to the Mexican tariff as regards import duty, official prices and import licensing. The main headings affected by the acuerdos are as follows:

03.01; 15.10; 15.11; 21.04; 21.07; 27.07; 27.08; 28.20; 28.30; 28.38; 29.00; 29.04; 29.08; 29.11; 29.14; 29.16; 29.22; 29.29; 29.30; 29.31; 29.35; 33.01; 37.01; 37.02; 37.03; 37.08; 38.19; 39.02; 39.03; 39.06; 39.07; 44.18; 48.01; 48.07; 51.01; 51.02; 70.06; 70.11; 70.17; 73.14; 73.15; 73.18; 74.05; 76.16; 82.01; 82.04; 82.05; 84.02; 84.08; 84.22; 84.41; 84.46; 85.03; 85.19; 85.20; 85.21; 85.24; 90.08; 90.17; 90.23; 90.25; 91.06; 92.12.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Nigeria

Exchange control. It is understood that the Nigerian federal military government has instructed commercial banks operating in the country to temporarily suspend the issue of letters of credit, with effect from 16 March

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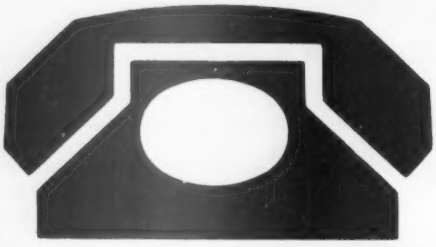
OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agency legislation, setting up of a subsidiary company and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information on specific countries, phone the number and extension given below



01-248 5757

extension

Sub-section A

1 Co-ordination of EEC regulations, requirements and common customs tariff (CCT), Denmark, France incl. overseas territories, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus

408 EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade

7174 EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports

Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)

423 France and French overseas departments, French overseas territories, Comoros

439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey, Cyprus

2 Benelux, Dutch overseas territories, Irish Republic, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany

288 Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao St Eustatius, St Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam

466 Italy, Irish Republic

467 Federal Republic of Germany

Sub-section B

Efta countries, Spain, Gibraltar, Malta, Israel, Macao

458 Israel, Norway, Gibraltar, Malta

459 Austria, Sweden, Switzerland

460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Macao

461 Spain, Canary Islands, Andorra

Sub-section C

1 North America, Bahamas, Bermuda, West Indies

455 Canada

456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island)

7312 Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts/Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands

2 South and Central America

474 Argentina, British Antarctica Territories and Antarctica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Falkland Islands, Haiti, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

Sub-section D

Africa

462 Algeria, Ceuta and Meilla, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Western Sahara

471 Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Jibuti (Djibouti), Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands, Sao Tome/Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa (with Botswana, Lesotho, SW Africa and Swaziland), Zambia, British Indian Ocean Territory

472 Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zaire

473 The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone

Sub-section E

Australasia and South East Asia, Eastern Bloc, China, Mongolia, Yugoslavia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Islands, Cook Islands, Niue Islands, Tokelau Islands, Philippines

468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (India Ocean), Nauru, New Hebrides, Papua New Guinea, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR, China, Mongolia, Yugoslavia

469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Islands, Phoenix Islands, Line Islands), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section F

Middle East (Part) and Asia (Part)

420 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Japan, Korea Democratic Peoples Republic, Korea Republic of, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen Peoples Democratic Republic

475 Iraq, Jordan, Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Vietnam Socialist Republic of, Bahrain, Iran, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates

1978. Exporters are advised to keep in touch with their banks for future developments.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

Portugal

Toxic substances in food utensils. *Trade and Industry,* 4 June 1976, published details of decree-law 143/76 which introduced standards on toxic release for food utensils. *Trade and Industry,* 9 July 1976, further stated that the decree would not enter into force until 1 January 1977. According to the Portuguese authorities the decree will continue to be suspended until 31 December 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

South Africa

Industrial rebates. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 3 March 1978.

R 365 Item: 306.02 CCCN 15.05, 27.01, 28.00, 29.00, 29.24, 39.01, 39.02, 39.07, 42.06, 58.07 and item 306.03 CCCN 27.10, 28.40 and 76.10. Items 306.02 and 306.03 have been rearranged and provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on hexane for the manufacture of concretes. 39.07 Bags of ethylene polymers or copolymers of a high density and modified with rubber, for packing sterile intravenous solutions – full duty less 20 per cent.

Drawbacks and refunds of customs duty.

R 366 Item: 510.04 CCCN 48.01. Provision is made for a drawback of the full duty on wood-free paper or paper board, with a basis mass not exceeding 250 g/m² and of a value for duty purposes per 1000 kg exceeding R 265 but not exceeding R 560, used in the manufacture of punch cards for export.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473 and 462.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 8/78, published in the *South African Government Gazette* of 17 March 1978 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on: sulphurised animal and vegetable oils, classifiable under tariff heading 15.08 and exterior rearview mirrors, classifiable under tariff subheading 87.06.90.90 including those imported with unassembled motor vehicles, classifiable under tariff subheading 87.02.15, 87.02.22, 87.02.24 and 87.02.60, and with unassembled chassis for light goods vehicles, classifiable under tariff subheading 87.04.25. Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Sri Lanka

Import duty changes. The Sri Lankan government has announced various import duty changes.

The following amendments were effective from midnight of 6 January 1978:

CCCN no.	Description	General rate of duty
04.02 D	Milk (other than whey) and cream, in forms other than powder or granules:	
	1 Sweetened condensed milk	5%
	2 Other	50%
04.03	Butter	
	1 Clarified butter (ghee)	100%
	2 Other	10%
15.07 K	Castor oil	50%
17.01	1 Raw sugars	100% of the difference between the C and F price per kg and Rs 5.60 per kg
	2 Other	
	1 Where the C and F price is Rs 5.60 per kg or less	100% of the difference between the C and F price per kg and Rs 5.60 per kg.
	2 Other	Free
19.02	Preparation of flour, meal, starch or malt extract containing less than 50% by weight of cocoa	
	1 Being infants' and invalids' food approved by the director of health services	Free
	2 Other	25%
21.07	Other food preparations	
	2 Being infants' and invalids food approved by the director of health services	Free
33.01	Essential oils	
	1 Geranium oil, vetiver oil and ylang-ylang oil	100%
	2 Other	100%
34.02	Organic surface-active agents, washing preparations	
	1 Washing preparations	100%
	2 Other	5%
35.05	Dextrins and dextrin glues; soluble or roasted starches; starch glues	25%
40.02	Synthetic rubber latex:	
	1 Polybutadiene-styrene latex; whether or not pre-vulcanised	5%
	2 Other synthetic rubber latex, whether or not pre-vulcanised	5%
	3 Polybutadiene (BR)	5%
	4 Polychlorobutadiene (CR)	5%
	5 Polybutadiene-styrene (SBR)	5%
	6 Butyl rubber (HR)	5%
	7 Other synthetic rubbers; factice derived from oils	5%
48.15 A	Toilet paper, in rolls or in sheets	100%
48.21 D	Sanitary towels and tampons; baby napkins	50%
65.06	Other headgear:	
	1 Safety helmets and bathing caps	5%
	2 Other	100% or Rs 100 per article
70.10	Carboys, bottles, jars, pots, containers of glass	50%
84.12	Air conditioning machines	
	2 Parts	50%
84.21 A	Mechanical appliances (whether or not hand operated) for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders; fire extinguishers	50%
87.09	Motor-cycles, auto-cycles	
	1 completely knocked down	25%
97.04	Equipment for parlour, table and funfair games	50%

The following amendments were effective from midnight 27 February 1978:

CCCN no.	Description	General rate of duty
36.06	Matches	Rs 1 per 1000 matches
49.11	Other printed matter	
	2 Other:	
	1 Printed pictures and photographs	100% or Rs 5 per unit
	2 Other	Free
76.10	Casks, drums, cans etc of aluminium	25%
85.03	Primary cells and primary batteries	
	1 Complete	25%
85.04	Electric accumulators	
	1 Accumulators	25%
	2 Parts:	
	1 Separators	5%
	2 Other	25%
85.20 A	Filament lamps, other than infra-red or ultra violet lamps:	
	1 Cinematographic bulbs	5%
	2 Other filament lamps over 200 volts but not exceeding 200 watts	50% or Rs 1.50 per unit
	3 Other	25%
87.14B	Trailers and semi-trailers for the transport of goods:	
	1 with a gross vehicle weight of 10 000 kg and below	100%
	2 Other	5%
87.02 B	Public service type motor vehicles:	
	1 with a normal seating capacity of 23 or more including the driver, such as motor buses, coaches, trolley buses and the like	12½%
	2 Other	50%

No further details are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475.

Syria

Import duty changes. The Syrian authorities have issued import duties amendments to chapter 48 of the tariffs and the following tariff headings have been affected 48.01, 48.07, 48.15.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420.

United States

Paint containing lead. The *Federal Register*, 2 March 1978, published a rule by the Consumer Product Safety Commission amending the regulation on furniture bearing lead-containing paint to exempt metal furniture articles (not metal childrens' furniture) bearing factory-applied coatings from the furniture banned by the regulation. *Trade and Industry* of 3 February 1978 refers.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Import of speciality steels under quota. Import statistics in pounds weight for the following products with quotas still open as at 10 March 1978.

Sheets and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	Quota filled
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	4 818 135
Bars of stainless steel (item 923.22)	Quota filled

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629

Uruguay

New tariff. A copy of the new Uruguayan tariff detailing the import duties levied under the 'Impuesto Aduanero Unico a la Importacion' (Imaduni), has been received and an unofficial translation is in the course of preparation.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1976	1970	£ million	£ million			18,401	10,528	1,830	1,929	£ million		
1971	101.8	32,675	9,682	1,988	1,922	92	−148	52	18	1,057	279	778
1972	104.2	34,542	9,797	1,721	2,035	34	−145	48	15	107	−701	808
1973	110.4	36,062	10,253	1,730	2,377	1,321	597	102	379	−910	−2,354	1,444
1974	109.5	35,361	10,287	1,964	2,300	596	634	81	−109	−3,538	−5,195	1,657
1975	107.9	35,257	10,062	1,695	1,921	−743	−429	−111	−65	−1,614	−3,205	1,591
1976	110.1	35,405	9,724	1,633	1,900	66	5	23	9	−1,107	−3,510	2,403
1977		35,147		1,762	2,067		137 p	107 p	17 p	−35	−1,612	1,577
1976 1st qtr.	110.2	8,829	2,489	397	448	44	0	26	33	−47	−543	496
2nd qtr.	109.6	8,797	2,425	400	468	−57	−66	−20	−45	−345	−909	564
3rd qtr.	109.8	8,880	2,435	414	488	−1	−2	14	16	−377	−1,097	720
4th qtr.	110.8	8,899	2,375	422	496	80	73	3	5	−338	−961	623
1977 1st qtr.	109.8	8,761	2,248	418	501	155	125	51	102	−505	−947	442
2nd qtr.	110.0	8,665	2,231	433	507	235	164	39	−5	−364	−764	400
3rd qtr.	109.9	8,796	2,262	456	529	−81	−31	5	−44	483	54	429
4th qtr.		8,925 pe		455 p	531 p		−21 p	12 p	−36 p	351	45	306
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.3	+1.7	−2.8	+7.1	+5.2							
on a year earlier	+0.2	−0.3	−7.6	+9.0	+7.7							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)				Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students	% of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults		Export	Import
				monthly averages						mid-month count		mid-month count		On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)					at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands		1975 19,462	1975 22,667
1971	100.1	99.4	100.0	108.5	80.0	9.4	104.6	109.0	119.4	775.8	3.4	130.9		84.6	83.3
1972	102.3	102.0	105.3	138.6	85.7	7.1	109.2	114.8	134.8	854.9	3.7	147.3		84.5	92.4
1973	110.1	110.5	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	144.5	123.2	152.6	611.0	2.6	307.0		96.8	105.6
1974	106.3	108.9	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	179.6	599.7[1]	2.6[1]	302.7[1]		103.9	107.9
1975	100.6	102.2	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	227.6	929.0	3.9	150.0[1]		100.0	100.0
1976	101.4	103.1	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	299.0	219.6	263.3	1,269.8[1]	5.4[1]	120.4[1]		109.9	105.5
1977	102.4	103.6	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	340.1 p	261.7 p	288.5	1,378.1	5.8	155.6[1]		118.9	107.0
1977 1st qtr.	103.2	105.2	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	341.5	248.0	280.2	1,329.5	5.6	..		115.7	109.1
2nd qtr.	101.9	103.0	102.5	103	181.9	17.4	347.7	259.2	285.2	1,340.6	5.6	157.7		118.0	109.8
3rd qtr.	102.7	103.7	104.3	112	184.7	16.5	340.5	267.7	288.4	1,414.6	5.9	151.9		124.1	106.4
4th qtr	101.7	102.6	104.4	110	187.4	13.1	330.6 p	272.1 p	300.3 p	1,427.8	6.0	160.1		117.9	102.6
1977 Feb.	103.2	105.4	104.0	113	174.1	16.2	339.5	248.2	278.7	1,330.0	5.6	148.8		115.2	103.4
Mar.	103.1	105.3	101.1	104	175.8	16.7	347.2	250.8	283.8	1,328.5	5.6	154.0		116.5	107.0
Apr.	102.2	103.5	102.3	106	180.3	17.5	349.7	255.4	283.1	1,333.8	5.6	155.5		116.2	105.3
May	103.3	104.8	103.2	108	181.7	17.1	348.3	259.8	286.2	1,323.8	5.5	159.4		116.0	109.6
June	100.3	100.6	102.1	95	183.6	17.7	345.2	262.4	286.2	1,364.3	5.7	158.1		121.9	114.5
July	102.8	104.2	104.8	113	183.8	17.6	344.5	265.8	286.5	1,398.5	5.9	155.2		123.1	110.4
Aug.	102.8	103.4	104.7	116	184.7	16.5	338.8	268.1	288.7	1,410.3	5.9	153.4		123.4	101.3
Sept.	102.6	103.5	103.5	107	185.7	15.6	338.1	269.2	290.1	1,434.9	6.0	147.2		125.9	107.5
Oct.	101.5	102.4	102.7	116	186.5	14.1	333.8	271.0	294.6	1,431.5	6.0	156.0		119.4	101.3
Nov.	101.4	101.9	103.1	108	187.4	13.0	329.9	272.0	300.1	1,429.6	6.0	159.4		115.3	98.4
Dec.	102.3	103.4	106.9	104	188.4	12.1	328.0	273.3	306.6	1,422.3	6.0	165 0		118.9	108.1
1978 Jan.	102.9 p	103.0 p	104.9	125	189.5	9.9	324.9 p	277.0 p	306.0 p	1,419.2	5.9	180.3		112.6	114.4
Feb.			106½ p		190.6	9.5	323.3 p	279.2 p		1,409.0	5.9	187.0		128.7 p	110.6 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.1	−0.3	+3.0	−0.6	+1.6		−2.6	+2.1	+4.5	−1.1				—	+8½
on a year earlier	−0.9	−1.8	+1.5	+3.7	+10.5		−3.1	+13.6	+10.3	+6.8				+4½	+2½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate e Estimate .. Not available [1] Average of available months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Engineering sales and orders up to December

SIC orders VII, VIII and IX

Provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted indices of engineering sales and orders up to December 1977 indicate a continuation in the declining trend of sales, with only a slight improvement over the low November figure leaving the fourth quarter of last year 3 per cent lower than the almost unchanged level in the preceding three quarters. However, there was some recovery in the intake of orders in December leading to a gently rising trend in the final quarter of the year, and also a marginal lengthening of the order book.

New domestic orders received by the combined engineering industries declined during the first half of last year, following a gradual recovery in 1976. Whilst in general they appear to have resumed their upward course during the second half of 1977, this improvement is neither strong nor steady, as the dip in trend in the fourth quarter shows. Home sales have as yet displayed only temporary rallies, and fell again during the fourth quarter to the lowest level yet reached in the present cycle. No sustained improvement in sales can be expected until order books have recovered. These did lengthen by 1 per cent over the fourth quarter, as the intake of home orders exceeded home sales, but they remain at a very low level.

New contracts from abroad declined throughout most of 1977 from the high inflow recorded at the end of the previous year. Although there appears to have been some resumption of growth in the final quarter, this was largely due to a high December intake which may not be repeated, and the 5 per cent increase in the trend may be transient and somewhat over-optimistic. As export orders received take some months to reach completion and delivery, the improvement in export sales continued until the middle of 1977 but they have fallen since then. Export order books remained almost unchanged for several months; the high December intake of orders caused a slight lengthening in that month, but this was insufficient to affect the trend.

As a result of the developments in the separate home and export markets, total new orders rose by 1 per cent during the final quarter of 1977, whilst total sales fell by 3 per cent. As the inflow of orders in the fourth quarter was a little greater than the volume of sales, the order book index at the end of December was slightly higher than three months earlier but the general level of order books has remained practically unchanged in

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to December

	Total			Home			Export		
	1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio: orders-on-hand/av. monthly sales in 1970 [1]	6.7			6.3			7.6		
Trend estimates									
1975									
July	109	91	109	102	88	105	125	99	119
August	106	90	108	99	87	105	122	96	118
September	104	89	108	96	87	104	120	96	118
October	101	89	107	94	86	103	117	98	118
November	98	90	106	91	86	101	115	102	119
December	96	91	105	89	86	99	113	105	120
1976 p									
January	95	92	104	87	87	98	111	106	122
February	93	93	104	86	88	98	108	105	122
March	91	93	104	85	89	98	106	106	122
April	90	94	105	83	89	98	105	108	122
May	88	96	105	82	89	99	104	113	121
June	88	99	105	80	91	100	104	119	120
July	87	102	105	79	93	101	104	125	118
August	87	105	106	78	95	101	106	131	118
September	87	107	106	78	97	101	108	135	119
October	88	109	106	77	98	101	111	138	121
November	88	110	107	77	99	101	113	139	123
December	88	110	107	77	100	100	115	138	124
1977 p									
January	89	110	107	77	101	100	116	136	124
February	89	109	106	77	101	99	117	133	125
March	90	108	106	77	99	98	118	130	125
April	90	106	106	77	97	98	118	129	127
May	90	105	106	77	96	98	119	130	128
June	89	104	106	76	95	98	118	128	129
July	89	105	107	76	97	99	118	127	129
August	89	106	107	76	99	99	118	125	128
September	89	106	106	76	100	99	118	125	126
October	89	107	105	76	100	98	118	126	126
November	89	107	104	77	99	96	118	128	126
December	89	108	103	77	99	95	118	131	126
Percentage change [2] Sep-Dec 1977	+0.5	+1.0	−3.0	+1.0	−1.0	−4.5	—	+5.0	−0.5
Seasonally adjusted									
1970	99	100	100	100	100	100	97	101	100
1971	90	94	100	94	96	99	82	90	100
1972	97	104	100	101	107	103	88	96	92
1973	127	129	111	127	129	114	127	128	103
1974	127	115	115	121	110	113	141	128	119
1975	96	93	110	89	89	106	112	103	121
1976 p	88	101	105	76	93	99	114	122	121
1977 p	90	107	106	78	99	98	119	129	126
1976 p									
1st qtr	92	95	104	85	91	98	106	105	120
2nd	87	94	106	80	89	100	102	109	122
3rd	87	106	106	79	98	101	106	128	118
4th	88	107	105	76	92	99	114	146	124
1977 p									
1st qtr	90	112	107	77	105	101	118	131	122
2nd	89	104	106	76	94	97	119	132	130
3rd	89	108	107	77	102	100	117	123	128
4th	90	106	104	78	97	96	119	131	126
1976 p									
January	95	101	108	87	92	103	113	125	120
February	93	94	104	87	97	99	109	87	118
March	92	89	99	85	84	92	106	102	120
April	90	96	108	84	94	102	104	101	123
May	88	93	110	81	84	103	102	115	129
June	87	95	100	80	89	95	102	111	114
July	87	105	105	78	85	99	108	164	119
August	87	109	106	79	110	103	107	107	114
September	87	104	106	79	101	101	106	113	120
October	88	113	109	77	97	106	110	154	117
November	88	109	104	77	92	98	115	156	122
December	88	99	103	76	89	92	114	127	131
1977 p									
January	89	121	112	77	112	107	117	144	126
February	90	113	109	78	111	104	117	120	121
March	90	101	101	77	91	93	118	128	120
April	90	110	108	78	102	100	118	133	129
May	90	101	102	77	90	93	119	132	127
June	89	100	108	76	89	98	119	131	133
July	88	102	109	75	92	100	118	127	132
August	90	117	106	77	114	100	118	124	121
September	89	105	107	77	100	99	117	118	129
October	89	108	109	76	100	103	118	129	124
November	89	97	101	76	89	93	117	116	121
December	90	115	103	78	102	91	119	147	133
Jul-Sep 1977 (av.)	89	108	107	77	102	100	117	123	127
Oct-Dec 1977 (av.)	90	107	104	78	97	96	119	131	126
Percentage change [2]	+1.0	−1.0	−3.0	+0.5	−4.5	−3.5	+1.5	+6.0	−1.5

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

the range 88-90 since the second quarter of 1976.

The revised figures published in the table are based on the monthly engineering inquiry relating to December 1977. The response rate of 78 per cent to the inquiry for December 1977 is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for September, October and November response rates for these months were 93, 89 and 86 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £3.06 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 618, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770.

New companies in February

Details are given below of new companies registered in Great Britain during February 1978 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Inquiries: Cardiff (0222) 388588 ext. 2226.

Companies registered in Great Britain in February

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2 757	—	2 757
Over £100 but under £1 000	48	—	48
£1 000 but under £10 000	942	—	942
£10 000 but under £50 000	403	—	403
£50 000 but under £100 000	86	—	86
£100 000 but under £1 000 000	87	—	87
£1 000 000 and over	3	—	3
Total number	4 326	—	4 326
	£ thous	£ thous	£ thous
Total amount of nominal capital	38 325	—	38 325

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1977 and 1978

	1977		1978	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3 225	30 825	4 555	31 447
February	4 330	34 505	4 326	38 325
March	5 843	49 266		
April	5 499	41 860		
May	4 097	27 086		
June	4 169	51 951		
July	4 172	34 238		
August	4 242	42 331		
September	4 527	51 261		
October	4 404	37 741		
November	5 007	32 987		
December	5 005	30 739		
Total	54 520	474 790		

Index of industrial production for January

The provisional estimate for the total all-industries' index of industrial production in January 1978 continues to suggest that after broad allowance has been made for stock movements and other factors, the underlying level of industrial output changed little in recent months.

Before any adjustment (apart from regular seasonal factors), the latest provisional estimates show that the average level of the all-industries' index in the period November 1977 to January 1978 was little changed from the previous three months; the corresponding index for manufacturing alone was about ½ per cent below its level in the preceding three months. An analysis by broad market sector shows that, over the same period, the output of consumer goods industries rose by ½ per cent, the output of investment goods industries was little changed and the output of intermediate goods industries fell by about 1 per cent.

On longer-term comparisons, the all-industries' index in the period November 1977 to January 1978 was 3½ per cent above the trough in the third quarter of 1975; the comparison for manufacturing industries shows a corresponding rise of about 2½ per cent. The all-industries' index and that for manufacturing industries in the latest three months were around 1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively below their levels in the same period a year ago.

The use for some industries of series which measure deliveries rather than production can result in the index numbers overstating or understating the level of output. The quarterly figures shown below give a broad assessment of the all-industries' index adjusted for this effect:

1976	1st qtr	100.2	1977	1st qtr	103.2
	2nd	100.9		2nd	102.3
	3rd	100.3		3rd	102.3
	4th	103.2		4th	102.0

The index numbers presented in the adjoining tables are all seasonally adjusted. The seasonal adjustment process is designed to remove annually recurring month to month variations due, for example, to the incidence of holidays and other regular seasonal patterns of behaviour. The adjustments, however, can in general only be derived from analysis of past experience and may not be

Index of industrial production: summary table

Seasonally adjusted — 1970 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Total manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering and allied industries	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing	Construction	Gas, electricity and water
Weights	1 000	850	37	745	84	65	57	319	76	144	146	72
1971	100.1	99.8	100.0	99.4	100.7	102.3	91.3	98.7	102.2	100.8	101.8	104.0
1972	102.3	102.1	84.1	102.0	105.0	107.5	91.4	99.2	104.5	107.1	103.5	111.6
1973	110.1	110.5	92.6	110.5	109.3	119.5	100.0	107.2	110.1	118.9	107.9	118.3
1974	106.3	108.5	78.8	108.9	109.9	124.6	91.7	108.3	103.1	112.1	93.8	118.9
1975	100.6	103.1	86.0	102.2	108.7	113.3	78.6	103.1	99.5	102.2	86.1	120.8
1976	101.4	104.3	89.4	103.1	110.9	124.3	85.3	98.8	101.7	106.3	84.5	123.5
1977	102.4	105.7	103.8	103.6	111.7	126.9	80.6	99.6	101.3	107.6	83.2	128.0
1976												
3rd qtr	100.9	104.2	87.3	103.4	112.7	125.5	86.3	98.4	101.6	106.8	81.9	119.9
4th	102.9	105.9	94.4	104.6	111.5	128.3	85.1	99.5	103.7	109.1	85.7	125.3
1977												
1st qtr	103.2	107.0	102.4	105.2	112.7	129.2	83.9	100.5	104.4	109.3	80.9	127.7
2nd	101.9	105.5	104.0	103.0	111.2	128.7	80.5	99.0	99.9	105.8	81.7	131.3
3rd	102.7	106.0	105.1	103.7	110.5	127.7	83.3	99.7	100.7	107.5	84.3	128.7
4th	101.7	104.5	103.6	102.6	112.4	122.2	74.8	99.1	100.1	107.8	85.8	124.4
1977												
Jan	103.2	107.1	100	105.0	111	125	87	101	104	109		132
Feb	103.2	107.0	103	105.4	113	132	83	100	105	110		126
Mar	103.1	107.0	104	105.3	114	131	81	101	104	109		125
Apr	102.2	105.8	102	103.5	113	129	77	100	101	107		131
May	103.3	107.1	105	104.8	112	130	89	101	101	108		130
Jun	100.3	103.6	105	100.6	109	128	75	97	98	103		133
Jul	102.8	106.0	104	104.2	112	126	87	100	102	107		125
Aug	102.8	106.0	105	103.4	109	130	79	100	99	109		132
Sep	102.6	105.8	106	103.5	111	127	85	99	101	107		129
Oct	101.5	104.2	103	102.4	112	122	75	99	101	108		123
Nov	101.4	104.1	103	101.9	112	123	70	99	98	108		127
Dec	102.3	105.2	104	103.4	114	122	79	100	101	108		123
1978												
Jan p	102.9	105.8	108	103.0	112	124	75	99	101	108		133
Percentage change latest three months on:												
1 previous three months	−0.1	−0.3	0.1	−0.3	1.9	−2.6	−6.2	0.0	−0.3	0.4		−0.3
2 a year earlier	−0.9	−1.3	8.1	−1.8	1.3	−4.1	−12.6	−0.6	−3.4	−0.6		−1.2

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Index of industrial production: detailed analysis

Seasonally adjusted — 1970 = 100

	Mining and quarrying		Food, drink and tobacco		Chemicals, coal and petroleum products		Metal manufacture		Engineering and allied industries				
	Coal mining	Other mining and quarrying	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total engineering	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering
Weights	30	7	52	32	7	58	43	14	182	100	15	67	16
1971	98.4	106.5	99.9	101.9	103.3	102.1	89.8	95.8	99.4	97.4	103.3	101.6	98.7
1972	76.4	116.3	104.0	106.5	102.5	108.1	89.4	97.3	99.1	93.6	101.9	106.6	89.5
1973	84.2	127.1	106.3	114.2	110.0	120.7	97.3	108.5	109.7	101.8	110.1	121.3	90.6
1974	70.0	115.0	104.5	118.8	106.0	126.9	87.7	104.2	113.1	106.2	117.8	122.6	92.4
1975	81.1	106.5	101.1	121.1	92.0	116.0	74.2	92.3	108.7	104.2	118.5	113.4	97.7
1976	74.7	150.1	103.7	122.7	96.5	127.8	82.0	95.5	103.6	97.4	113.3	110.8	92.0
1977	72.8	232.1	105.5	122.0	93.2	131.2	76.7	92.7	103.9	95.4	115.7	113.9	84.6
1976													
1 qtr	73.0	146.4	104.9	125.5	96.3	129.1	83.4	95.5	103.0	96.2	111.0	111.5	90.4
4th	73.6	180.4	104.0	123.8	98.5	132.1	81.5	96.2	104.2	95.6	117.8	114.1	91.2
1977													
1st qtr	74.1	219.7	106.7	122.6	95.9	133.4	79.4	97.7	105.8	98.4	114.2	115.0	82.8
2nd	73.5	230.2	104.6	122.0	94.3	133.0	76.5	92.8	102.3	94.3	116.8	111.0	90.8
3rd	72.3	240.9	105.5	118.8	92.6	132.1	81.0	90.4	104.4	95.0	116.2	115.7	82.3
4th	71.2	237.5	105.1	124.5	90.2	126.3	69.9	90.1	103.1	93.9	115.9	114.1	82.4
1977													
Jan	74	209	107	119	91	129	83	100	106	99	115	116	77
Feb	74	220	108	122	101	135	79	97	106	99	114	115	85
Mar	74	230	106	127	96	136	76	96	105	98	114	114	86
Apr	74	221	107	122	94	133	71	96	103	95	116	111	89
May	74	235	105	122	94	134	88	92	102	94	117	111	93
Jun	73	235	102	121	95	132	71	90	102	94	117	111	90
Jul	73	233	105	122	94	131	85	91	104	95	117	115	75
Aug	72	244	105	116	92	135	75	88	105	95	116	116	88
Sep	72	246	106	118	92	131	82	92	104	95	116	116	85
Oct	72	235	104	124	88	126	70	91	103	94	116	115	78
Nov	71	236	105	123	87	128	65	88	103	94	116	114	90
Dec	71	241	106	126	95	125	75	91	103	94	116	113	79
1978													
Jan p	73	253	106	123	91	128	71	87	102	94	116	112	83
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1 previous three months	−0.3	0.7	0.8	3.6	0.7	−2.9	−7.9	−1.8	−1.3	−0.7	0.2	−2.3	0.7
2 a year earlier	−3.4	26.4	1.0	1.8	−4.5	−4.0	−14.5	−7.6	−2.1	−2.9	−0.7	−1.5	−5.0

	Engineering and allied industries (cont)				Textiles, leather and clothing			Other manufacturing					
	Total vehicles	Motor vehicles	Other vehicles	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total bricks, pottery glass, etc.	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries
Weights	73	45	28	48	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31
1971	100.2	100.5	99.7	93.3	100.6	103.0	105.4	108.4	107.0	110.5	103.0	97.3	99.8
1972	104.0	102.2	106.8	95.4	102.9	104.5	107.8	115.9	115.1	117.2	113.5	102.7	104.3
1973	107.6	104.6	112.6	102.9	108.6	101.1	114.6	126.8	123.7	131.7	132.6	112.1	116.7
1974	103.0	95.5	115.2	103.6	99.2	94.9	112.2	117.1	108.3	130.9	112.1	108.9	114.5
1975	95.3	87.8	107.6	95.0	93.8	92.9	112.2	107.9	99.7	120.8	110.2	95.6	105.5
1976	91.9	89.4	96.0	93.5	97.4	95.6	111.3	111.1	101.9	125.6	112.5	98.0	114.7
1977	93.5	94.2	92.2	97.4	93.7	90.1	118.6	108.0	95.4	127.8	105.8	102.2	119.8
1976													
3rd qtr	91.3	88.9	95.3	94.1	97.5	94.8	111.2	113.0	102.5	129.6	113.7	98.4	114.1
4th	91.9	91.2	93.2	95.8	99.4	95.7	113.7	110.6	99.6	127.8	114.7	100.7	121.2
1977													
1st qtr	92.8	93.9	91.0	97.7	98.7	96.6	117.3	108.6	96.3	127.9	110.7	102.6	122.9
2nd	94.2	96.0	91.2	96.5	92.5	88.4	116.7	106.8	94.0	126.8	100.7	101.0	118.5
3rd	93.3	94.0	92.0	97.6	92.8	87.9	118.8	109.3	95.4	130.9	104.6	101.4	120.4
4th	93.6	93.0	94.5	97.8	90.6	87.5	121.6	107.5	95.8	125.7	107.3	103.6	117.2
1977													
Jan	95	99	89	98	100	97	113	108	94	130	111	102	122
Feb	89	88	91	99	99	97	120	107	97	123	112	103	124
Mar	95	95	93	97	97	97	119	111	98	131	109	103	123
Apr	96	99	91	97	94	88	118	107	93	128	104	101	120
May	99	102	94	99	93	88	117	110	96	132	103	102	122
Jun	88	88	89	93	90	88	115	104	93	121	95	100	114
Jul	96	98	94	99	95	88	119	109	93	134	104	101	121
Aug	91	92	91	97	91	88	118	108	96	127	106	103	123
Sep	92	93	92	96	93	88	120	110	97	132	104	101	118
Oct	93	91	96	97	92	87	121	106	93	127	107	103	118
Nov	91	89	95	97	90	87	116	108	96	127	104	103	120
Dec	97	100	93	99	90	87	127	108	99	123	111	104	114
1978													
Jan p	96	98	92	99	92	86	121	110	94	135	102	105	118
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1 previous three months	2.6	4.2	0.2	1.4	−1.5	−1.0	1.8	0.4	1.0	−0.3	−0.2	1.9	−1.7
2 a year earlier	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.4	−8.9	−9.4	7.1	−1.5	−1.7	−1.3	−5.8	3.5	−3.5

p Provisional.

completely appropriate when holiday patterns changes harply. Changes in recent years in the amount and incidence of industrial holidays taken between Christmas and new year's day and around the spring bank holiday may not be fully reflected in the seasonally adjusted estimates.

About two-thirds of the index of production is derived by the revaluation to the prices of 1970 of data expressed at current prices. When the rate of change of prices is relatively large, or itself changes rapidly, the problems associated with this revaluation become more acute. For this reason the estimates for periods since 1973 should be regarded as subject to wider margins of error than those for earlier years.

Inquiries: 01-233 7239.

Average earnings in January and basic rates of wages in February

Indices of average earnings

Average earnings of employees in all industries and services in Great Britain are estimated to have risen by about 9.4 per cent between January 1977 and January 1978. This estimate is based on the new series of monthly index numbers of average earnings for the whole economy which was introduced from January 1976.

Over this 12-month period, average earnings in production and other industries covered by the older series, introduced from January 1963, increased by about 10.1 per cent.

The figures for recent months are:

New series (whole economy) — Not seasonally adjusted

	Index Jan 1976 = 100	Percentage increase over previous 12 months
1977		
August	115.7	7.3
September	116.6	7.7
October	117.9	8.7
November	120.1	8.6
December	121.7	9.4
1978		
January p	121.3	9.4

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Older series (production industries and some services)

	Seasonally adjusted			Un-adjusted index January 1970 = 100
	Index January 1970 = 100	Percentage increase over previous month	Percentage increase over previous 12 months	
1977				
August	288.7	0.7	8.0	287.3
September	290.1	0.5	9.0	292.4
October	294.6	1.5	9.5	296.6
November	300.1	1.9	10.3	304.5
December	306.6	2.2	10.7	304.8
1978				
January p	306.0	−0.2	10.1	306.0

p Provisional.

Indices of basic rates of wages

At the end of February 1978, nationally-negotiated basic weekly rates of wages of manual workers were on average 5.2 per cent

higher than a year earlier. During February, the index of basic weekly rates increased from 234.4 to 235.1. The figures for recent months are:

	Indices, 31 July 1972 = 100		Percentage increases over previous 12 months	
	Basic weekly rates	Basic hourly rates	Basic weekly rates	Basic hourly rates
1977				
30 September	228.8	230.2	5.0	5.0
31 October	229.2	230.6	5.0	5.0
30 November	230.9	232.3	5.3	5.3
31 December	232.4	233.8	5.6	5.5
1978				
31 January	234.4	235.8	5.3	5.3
28 February	235.1	236.5	5.2	5.2

The indices only take account of changes in nationally-negotiated rates. The year-on-year increases consequently reflect that there have been no changes in such rates for engineering workers since February 1976.
Inquiries: Watford 28500 ext. 319.

Long runs of key figures: Economic Trends annual supplement

Real personal disposable income increased by more than 120 per cent between 1948 and 1976, and personal saving was 14.6 per cent of personal disposable income in 1976 compared with 1.8 per cent in 1947.

Basic weekly wage rates in manufacturing industry increased by nearly 390 per cent between 1956 and 1976.

Between 1948 and 1976 the internal purchasing power of the pound fell by 78 per cent.

Average prices of new dwellings on mortgage rose by over 475 per cent between 1956 and 1976.

These are the sort of comparisons that can be drawn from the third edition of the *Economic Trends* annual supplement (1977) produced by the Central Statistical Office.

The annual supplement brings together long tuns of quarterly and annual data for the key series of economic statistics and should be of especial value to economists, planners, analysts, academic researchers and journalists.

Some 300 series are included, linked to give continuous runs as far back as possible in the post-war period. About half span 25 years or more. In this edition, the section on appropriation accounts has been expanded to include separate tables on industrial and commercial companies, and financial companies and institutions.

Tables in the supplement are backed by concise notes and definitions and an index to further, more detailed sources. There is also a section covering main economic events between July 1976 and August 1977.

The annual supplement comes as part of the annual subscription to *Economic Trends*, or it can be purchased separately (£2.65). It can be obtained from HMSO in London or from HMSO's regional bookshops and agents.

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks in December

In the three months ended December 1977 deliveries in the footwear industry were estimated to be 7 per cent higher on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis than in the three months ended September 1977. Net new orders were 8 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of December orders on hand were 5 per cent lower on the September 1977 level. The index of output in the three months ended December 1977 was 9 per cent higher than in the three months ended September 1977.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (minimum list heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Inquiries: 01-212 6787.

Index of output: orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	101	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	101	46.8	132.9	13.8		42.8	13.1		39.4	14.4
1977	108	45.8	145.4	13.5		50.0	13.6		49.0	16.0
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1975 1st quarter	106	36.2	63.2	11.9	11.0	31.3	14.6	14.6	36.7	18.3
2nd	95	41.2	82.4	14.0	13.4	36.8	12.3	13.1	30.4	23.1
3rd	101	33.1	70.0	11.4	13.9	33.1	14.1	13.8	37.2	17.4
4th	101	38.8	91.8	15.5	14.6	43.4	13.6	13.4	36.1	15.8
1976 1st quarter	101	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.1	38.9	13.3	12.9	39.8	19.0
2nd	99	46.3	107.5	12.8	12.8	40.4	11.5	12.4	34.3	20.9
3rd	99	36.9	89.7	10.0	12.0	34.7	13.2	12.8	40.7	17.2
4th	106	46.8	132.9	17.6	16.9	57.3	14.3	14.1	42.9	14.4
1977 1st quarter	107	57.6	140.9	17.4	16.0	51.7	13.8	13.5	49.0	14.7
2nd	106	57.4	154.2	12.7	12.3	48.2	12.8	13.8	43.7	17.2
3rd p	105	48.4	111.4	10.6	13.0	35.9	13.6	13.2	50.2	14.1
4th p	114	45.8	145.4	13.3	14.1	64.2	14.2	14.1	52.9	16.0
1976 January	105	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.4	33.9	13.1	13.8	37.6	
February	104	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.2	40.3	12.9	12.8	39.2	
March	94	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.1	42.6	
April	95	43.2	94.4	12.2	9.7	39.7	11.6	12.0	34.5	
May	103	48.0	108.4	15.9	15.4	47.0	11.1	13.1	33.0	
June	100	46.3	107.5	10.2	13.4	34.4	11.8	12.2	35.3	
July	95	40.8	90.7	6.3	10.3	20.2	11.8	12.2	37.0	
August	97	38.1	87.9	8.8	11.4	33.7	11.4	12.0	36.6	
September	105	36.9	89.7	15.1	14.2	50.3	16.2	14.1	48.5	
October	104	44.9	111.7	23.6	19.0	67.6	15.6	14.2	45.7	
November	101	45.9	126.0	15.6	12.7	59.1	14.6	13.1	44.8	
December	111	46.8	132.9	13.6	19.1	45.0	12.6	15.2	38.1	
1977 January	105	51.8	133.8	16.8	17.9	42.7	11.9	13.1	41.8	
February	111	54.2	136.9	16.4	15.4	52.6	14.0	13.8	49.5	
March	104	57.6	140.9	19.1	14.8	59.7	15.6	13.7	55.7	
April	98	60.4	153.5	14.8	12.3	53.0	12.0	12.9	40.3	
May	113	62.6	164.0	15.8	14.7	56.4	13.7	15.4	45.9	
June	107	57.4	154.2	7.5	9.9	35.2	12.7	13.1	45.0	
July p	98	54.7	136.8	9.2	15.7	25.3	11.9	12.8	42.6	
August p	107	48.1	125.0	6.6	8.2	36.9	13.2	13.2	48.7	
September	110	48.4	111.4	15.9	15.1	45.6	15.6	13.6	59.2	
October p	114	45.7	131.7	13.1	10.5	78.1	15.7	14.2	57.9	
November p	112	42.4	137.8	11.8	9.6	63.1	15.2	13.6	57.0	
December p	117	45.8	145.4	15.1	22.2	51.3	11.6	14.6 [1]	43.7	

p Provisional.
[1] Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in January are expected to be 13 million pairs.

Government statistics

For more information, see the Guide to government statistics, published with Trade and Industry, 13 January 1978

Departmental responsibilities and contact points

Central Statistical Office
Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ
01-233 followed by extension
National income and expenditure, balance of payments, index of industrial production, financial statistics, input/output statistics, development of social statistics, regional statistics ext **6135/6193**
Price indices for current cost accounting ext **7718/7661**
Survey Control Unit ext **7341**
Macro-Economic Databank ext **5401**

Industry, trade, prices

Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection

Business Statistics Office
Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG
Newport 56111
General inquiries ext **2973**
Production statistics:
Annual production statistics ext **2455**
Quarterly and monthly production inquiries ext **2337/2322**
Purchases inquiry ext **2369**
Classified list of businesses ext **2556**
Distribution statistics:
Census of distribution 1971 ext **2000**
Annual retail inquiry ext **2070**
Annual inquiry into distributive and service trades, capital expenditure and stocks ext **2113**
Census of production 1968 ext **2973**
Minerals raised annual inquiry ext **2926**

Other offices
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
01-215 followed by extension
Wholesale price indices exts **3544, 3073**
Capital expenditure and stocks, and investment intentions of private industry:
Manufacturing ext **3176**
Distributive and service trades ext **3345**
Retail trades turnover ext **3705**
Motor and catering trades turnover ext **3177**
Hire-purchase and other instalment credit ext **3162**
Aerospace ext **4052**
Companies:
Acquisitions and mergers, liquidity, insolvencies ext **5538**
Analysis of accounts ext **3132, 5705**
Insurance, private sector pensions funds ext **3162**
Overseas trade:
Visible ext **3131**
Invisible ext **5176**
Overseas direct investment and earnings ext **3135**
Economic indicators:
Home ext **3453**
Industrial countries ext **3442**
Statistical service for Department of Prices and Consumer Protection ext **4138**

Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN **01-211** followed by extension
Scientifically qualified manpower ext **3125**
R&D expenditure by industry ext **5156**

Cromwell House, Dean Stanley Street, London SW1P 3HY **01-212** followed by extension
Shipping ext **6730**
Tourism ext **5555**

Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU **01-211** followed by extension
Industrial development certificates ext **3324**
Distribution of industry ext **6073**

Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG **01-212** followed by extension
Manufacturing industries – production, sales, orders:
Steel and shipbuilding ext **5544**
Engineering ext **6044**
Non-ferrous metals ext **6532**
Motor vehicles ext **0788**
Chemicals ext **6937**
Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather, man-made fibres ext **6210**
Other industries ext **6331**

Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU **01-248 5757 Telex: 886143 DTI**
Export Ldn
All foreign and Commonwealth statistics ext **337**

Statistics and Market Intelligence Library
ext **368**
Provides up-to-date and comprehensive trade statistics for all countries, and general statistical publications from all over the world. Overseas directories are also held. Reading room and copying facilities are available.

Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH
01-839 7711
General inquiries exts **7000, 7024**
National expenditure estimates on food ext **477**
Food consumption estimates exts **388, 479**
Agricultural incomes, etc exts **292, 296, 297, 565**
Agricultural and food statistics for overseas countries ext **544**
Market prices (livestock, dairy products, etc) ext **7058**

Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE **01-216** followed by extension
Commodity production statistics ext **7501**
Market prices (horticulture) ext **6711**
Fisheries ext **6143**

49–53 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2NH
01-233 followed by extension
Agricultural rents, land prices, etc ext **5454**

Government Buildings, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2DT **01-868 7161**
Agricultural prices indices ext **35**
Wholesale price index (manufactured food and soft drinks) ext **108**
National food survey: household food consumption and expenditure ext **44**

Government Buildings, Epsom Road, Guildford GU1 2LD **Guildford 68121**
Agricultural censuses and surveys ext **518**

Customs and Excise

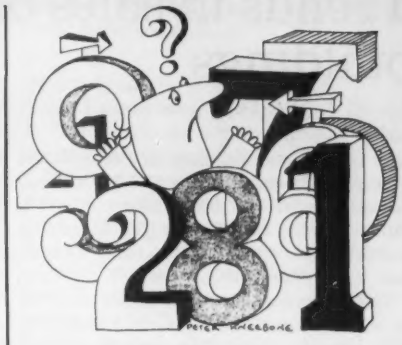
Customs and Excise
King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE **01-626 1515**
Statistics related to all indirect taxes administered by the department ext **2693**

Bill of Entry Service, Statistical Office, Portcullis House, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6AL
Southend 49421
United Kingdom external trade statistics ext **310**

Employment

Department of Employment
Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1PJ
Watford 28500
Employment, unemployment, vacancies ext **403**
Earnings, wage rates, hours of work ext **319**
New earnings survey ext **500**
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes ext **673**
Employers' labour costs ext **526**
Index of retail prices ext **630**

26 King Street, London SW1Y 6RB
01-214 8627
Family Expenditure Survey



Energy

Department of Energy
Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ **01-211** followed by extension
Fuel and energy ext **4292**
Energy models ext **4550**

Environment, transport

Departments of the Environment and Transport
St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TE **01-928 7999**
Roads ext **3045**
Road traffic ext **2629**

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EP
01-212 followed by extension
Passenger traffic, road vehicles ext **8987**
Public road passenger transport ext **8330**
Inland freight transport, railways ext **7513**
Road accidents ext **7452**
Traffic of seaports ext **8323**
Road goods transport ext **8297**
Building materials exts **7147, 8411**
Construction industries ext **7142**
Planning and land use ext **4113**
Local government financial statistics ext **4627**
Population projections exts **8558, 8563**
Household projections exts **8555, 8557**
Housing ext **8551**

Health, social security

Department of Health and Social Security
Friars House, 157-168 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8EU **01-703 6380**
Social security statistics ext **4284**

42–46 Weston Street, London SE1 3QW
01-407 4411
Personal social services ext **230**
Health services ext **223**

Health and Safety Executive
Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF **01-229 3456**
Health and safety statistics

Overseas aid

Ministry of Overseas Development
Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH
01-834 2377
British aid to developing countries ext **265**

Population

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
St Catherine's House, Kingsway, London WC2B 8JP **01-242 0262**

Population and vital statistics (England and Wales):
National and local estimates of population ext **2249**
Regional demography and sub-national population projections ext **2183**
Overseas migration ext **2182**
National population projections, international data, marriages and general inquiries ext **2169**
Deaths, abortions, infectious diseases ext **2229**
Births ext **2162**
Divorces ext **2165**
Social surveys ext **2292**
Census of population, general inquiries exts **2009, 2013**

Trends in sales of land and buildings

Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales in 1976 amounted to £13,500 million, compared with £12,000 million in 1975, £10,000 million in 1974 and £12,000 million in 1973. Sales in 1977 are unlikely to have been lower than in 1976.

The figures are based on a week's survey in each of the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

There was a gradual increase in the money value of sales of residential property from £760 million to £1,020 million between the survey months of October 1973 and November 1976. During the same period, sales of non-residential property declined from £365 million to £155 million before rising to £195 million in November 1976.

The most important sectors involved in the property market are persons and property companies and builders. Persons were net purchasers of residential property but made sizeable net sales of non-residential property in October 1973 and small net sales in subsequent periods. Companies on the other hand made net sales of residential property mainly to persons throughout this period. Of non-residential property they made net purchases in October 1973 but net sales subsequently.

Average prices of residential property showed increases in all regions of England and in Wales; by November 1975 the value of transactions was noticeably greater than in October 1973 and there was a striking continuation of this trend in November 1976. For non-residential property the value was much lower in the subsequent survey months than in October 1973, mainly due to a fall in activity in large cases.

November 1976 survey

An article published in *Economic Trends* in September 1976 provided detailed estimates of sales of land and buildings in England and Wales in October 1973, October 1974 and November 1975, and some broad monthly and quarterly estimates of conveyances in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. For England and Wales it also provided quarterly statistics of sales of over £500,00 based on a comprehensive analysis of such cases.

The present article, based on an article by A. T. Dunn and A. Ganguly of the Inland Revenue in the February issue of *Economic Trends*, gives detailed estimates for November 1976. It brings up to date the monthly and quarterly series, and from July 1974 it subdivides cases over £15,000 between those below and above £30,000. Finally, it extends the large case analysis down to all sales of over £100,000.

The survey of November 1976 was carried out in the same way as its predecessors and covered one week in November 1976. The rules adopted for classification were described in an article in *Economic Trends* for May 1974. The confidentiality of individual transactions was preserved by combining any cell based on a sample of less than five transactions with another cell. The results of the survey were grossed up to estimates for the month using the same procedure as for the survey of November 1975, but with the further improvement that the survey could be supplemented by comprehensive data for the whole month for all cases over £100,000, and not merely for those above £500,000.

Strictly, all transactions in real property are transactions in land, but in these surveys the term 'land' is used to describe agricultural land, with or without buildings, and other land without buildings.

Broad annual trends

Table 4 shows that, in round terms, the value of sales of land and buildings in England and Wales is estimated at £12,000 million in 1973, £10,000 million in 1974, £12,000 million in 1975 and £13,500 million in 1976. The level of sales in 1977 is unlikely to have been lower than in 1976.

At first glance these estimates might suggest a general recovery in activity but in fact they subsume a gradually rising trend in the money value of sales of residential property, reflecting increases in house prices, and a much more varied picture for non-residential property. Table 1 and chart 1 show that the value of sales of non-residential property in October 1973 was £365 million (as compared with £760 million for residential property). It fell by a half between October 1973 and October 1974 and had declined further by November 1975. By November 1976 it had risen to just above the level of October 1974 but was thus still well below that of October 1973. In terms of numbers of sales the picture is more stable although there was a considerable drop from the level of October 1973 for transactions above £100,000, both residential and non-residential.

Useful insight can be obtained into the movements in all residential and non-residential property by grouping sales of land and buildings into three ranges – below £15,000, £15,000 to £30,000, and £30,000 and over – for which estimates are available from data of stamp duty receipts and of the total number of transactions. This analysis is shown in table 4 from the fourth quarter of 1974. For earlier periods the two upper ranges are combined.

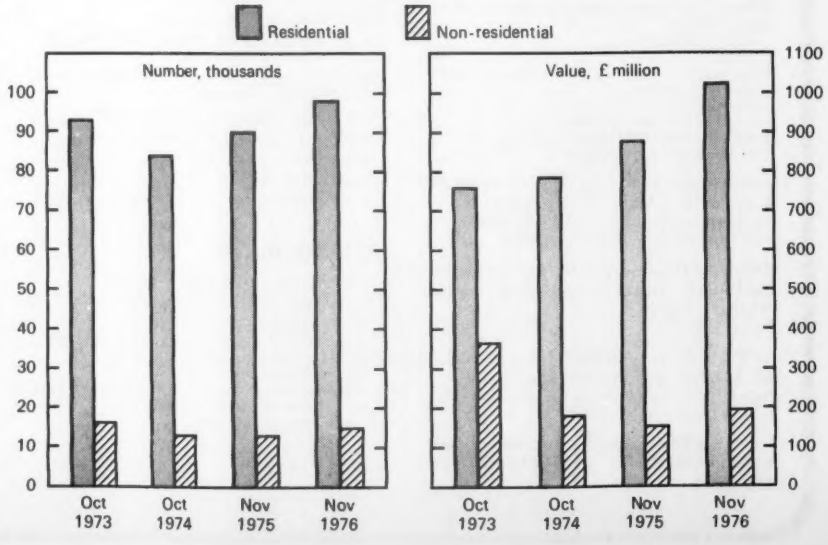
Table 1 Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales, by type of property and broad price range

Broad price range—lower limit (£ thousand)	Numbers (thousands)				(Values £ million)		
	Survey month	Residential[1]	Non-residential	Total	Residential[1]	Non-residential	Total
0–	Oct 1973	82	13	94	495	32	527
	Oct 1974	73	11	84	527	28	555
	Nov 1975	76	11	86	567	29	595
	Nov 1976	81	13	94	637	31	668
15–	Oct 1973	11	2·5	14	252	86	338
	Oct 1974	11	1·5	12	240	59	298
	Nov 1975	15[2]	1·7	16[2]	312[2]	54	366[2]
	Nov 1976	17	1·6	19	379	58	437
100–	Oct 1973	0·14	1·0	1	13	247	260
	Oct 1974	0·07	0·3	0·4	20	93	114
	Nov 1975	—[2]	0·3	0·3[2]	—[2]	74	74[2]
	Nov 1976	0·03	0·3	0·3	5	105	110
Total	Oct 1973	93	16	109	760	365	1,125
	Oct 1974	84	13	97	786	180	967
	Nov 1975	90	13	103	879	156	1,035
	Nov 1976	98	15	113	1,021	194	1,214

Note: Components may not add precisely to totals because of rounding. *Source: Survey data*

[1] Including multiple transactions.
[2] Two price ranges for residential property have been combined to preserve confidentiality.

Chart 1 Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales



Due to a decline in activity in the non-residential property sector, sales over £15,000 declined by 25 per cent between 1973 and 1974, from £6,200 million to £4,700 million. Following this decline, there was an upsurge of interest in both residential and non-residential properties and sales rose to £5,000 million in 1975 and to £6,600 million in 1976. The level of sales in the first nine months of 1977 was slightly higher than during the same period in 1976.

The figures show that sales of properties above £30,000 accounted for 18 per cent by value of all sales in 1975, while in 1976 and the first three quarters of 1977 the figure had risen to 23 per cent. At the lower end of the market, sales of properties, mainly residential, below £15,000 accounted for an increasing proportion of the total value of sales between 1973 and 1975, rising from 48 per cent to 59 per cent before declining to 51 per cent in 1976 and to 50 per cent in the first three quarters of 1977.

Detailed survey results for England and Wales

By type of property and broad price range

Throughout this section the statistics and comparisons relate to the survey months October 1973, October 1974, November 1975 and November 1976. In table 1 the grossed-up data are given for the four survey months.

The value of sales of residential property has risen in each survey month but that of non-residential property has been depressed in comparison with October 1973. In the range below £15,000 the number of transactions in residential properties remained static while the value had increased by 30 per cent by November 1976. Transactions in non-residential property declined sharply between October 1973 and October 1974 and remained at the lower level in terms of both number and value. In particular, sales of £100,000 or more which constitute a sizeable proportion of non-residential sales remained at a low level subsequent to October 1973. But in November 1976 sales of non-residential property showed some uplift.

By type of property and standard economic region

The numbers and values of sales of residential and non-residential property by economic region are shown in table 2.

In October 1974 and November 1975 the number of transactions in residential property was lower than in October 1973 in most regions except the south-east (outside Greater London), but in November 1976 it showed an increase for the majority of regions. On the other hand, by November 1975 the value of transactions was noticeably greater than in October 1973 and there was a striking continuation of this trend in 1976. Average prices were higher in all regions, particularly so for freehold properties in the north and for leasehold properties in the south-west.

For non-residential property the number of transactions was a little lower than that of October 1973 in the three subsequent survey months whilst the value was much lower in nearly all cases. This demonstrates that a large part of the fall in activity after 1973 was in the larger transactions.

Analysis by sector of seller and purchaser

Table 3 shows sales, purchases and net sales by broad economic sectors and chart 2 shows the net position graphically.

The most important sectors involved in the property market are persons and companies (especially property companies and builders). Persons were net purchasers of residential property throughout this period but made sizeable net sales of non-residential property in October 1973, and small net sales in subsequent periods. Companies, on the other hand, made net sales of residential property (mainly to persons) throughout this period. Of non-residential property they made net purchases in October 1973 but net sales subsequently.

Chart 2 Net sales and purchases of land and buildings in England and Wales, by sector

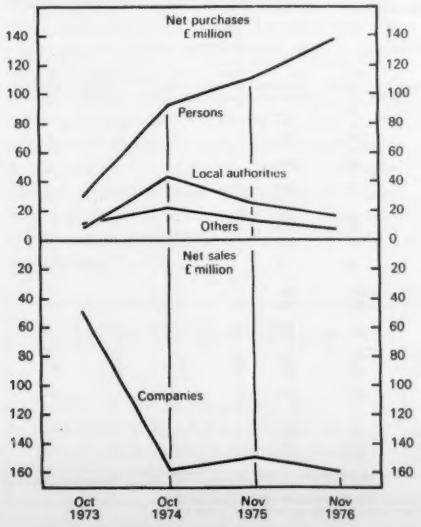


Table 2 Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales, by type of property and standard economic region

Standard economic region	Residential[1]				Non-residential				All properties			
	Oct 1973	Oct 1974	Nov 1975	Nov 1976	Oct 1973	Oct 1974	Nov 1975	Nov 1976	Oct 1973	Oct 1974	Nov 1975	Nov 1976
	Numbers (thousand)											
North	5·2	4·6	4·5	4·7	0·7	0·7	0·4	0·5	5·9	5·3	4·9	5·2
Yorkshire and Humberside	8·5	7·7	9·7	9·3	1·2	1·2	1·3	1·2	9·7	8·8	11·0	10·5
East Midlands	6·5	5·8	6·7	8·0	1·4	1·4	1·3	1·6	7·9	7·2	8·0	9·6
East Anglia	3·2	2·6	3·0	3·0	1·0	0·7	0·6	0·8	4·2	3·2	3·6	3·9
South East[2]	17·3	18·4	21·4	21·2	3·1	2·8	3·1	3·5	20·4	21·2	24·5	24·7
Greater London	13·0	12·2	12·3	13·5	1·7	1·4	1·1	1·5	14·6	13·7	13·4	15·0
South West	8·7	5·9	6·7	9·3	2·2	1·5	1·4	2·0	10·8	7·4	8·1	11·3
West Midlands	10·1	8·5	8·7	10·2	1·7	1·3	1·3	1·6	11·8	9·8	10·1	11·8
North West	15·0	13·0	13·1	13·8	1·8	0·9	1·1	1·4	16·8	14·0	14·2	15·2
Wales	5·4	4·9	4·4	5·1	1·3	1·0	0·8	1·0	6·7	5·9	5·2	6·0
England and Wales	92·9	83·5	90·4	98·0	18·1	13·0	12·6	15·1	108·9	98·5	103·0	113·1
	Values (£ million)											
North	28·7	29·4	30·5	39·6	8·2	3·2	2·9	4·2	36·9	32·6	33·4	43·9
Yorkshire and Humberside	43·1	46·9	70·3	77·4	12·3	9·8	8·6	12·5	55·4	56·7	78·9	89·9
East Midlands	43·8	45·4	56·9	68·7	27·3	11·2	12·4	17·5	71·1	56·6	69·3	86·2
East Anglia	27·8	24·7	28·9	30·3	23·8	4·1	5·7	7·7	51·6	28·8	34·6	38·0
South East[2]	210·7	249·0	279·0	290·1	63·3	52·0	42·6	54·4	274·0	301·0	321·6	344·5
Greater London	137·9	152·0	143·7	164·4	52·2	52·0	38·6	39·4	190·1	204·0	182·3	203·8
South West	92·1	66·3	75·0	112·5	44·6	21·4	14·9	22·5	136·7	87·7	89·9	135·0
West Midlands	64·3	64·5	72·9	86·7	71·2	12·8	11·4	13·3	135·3	77·3	84·3	99·9
North West	79·9	74·1	90·1	107·0	47·7	6·3	10·7	16·8	127·6	80·4	100·8	123·7
Wales	31·6	33·8	31·5	44·2	14·4	7·5	8·6	5·3	46·0	41·4	40·1	49·6
England and Wales	759·9	786·2	878·8	1,020·9	364·7	180·4	156·3	193·6	1,124·6	966·6	1,035·1	1,214·5

Note: Components may not add precisely to totals because of rounding. *Source: Survey data*

[1] Including multiple transactions.
[2] Excluding Greater London.

Table 3 Sales and purchases of land and buildings in England and Wales, by sector

£ million

Survey month	Sector	Residential[1]			Non-residential			All properties		
		Sales	Purchases	Net sales	Sales	Purchases	Net sales	Sales	Purchases	Net sales
Oct 1973	Persons	592	674	− 82	145	92	53	737	766	− 30
	Property companies	99	33	66	70	100	−30	169	133	36
	Other companies	5	8	− 3	98	89	9	103	96	7
	Unclassified companies	34	20	14	27	35	− 8	61	55	6
	Local authorities	12	15	− 3	3	8	− 6	15	23	− 8
	Others[2]	18	10	8	22	41	−19	40	51	− 11
	Total	760	760	—	365	365	—	1,125	1,125	—
Oct 1974	Persons	610	710	−100	61	53	8	671	763	− 92
	Property companies	157	18	139	52	28	24	209	46	163
	Other companies	5	5	—	36	30	6	41	35	6
	Unclassified companies	3	9	− 6	2	6	− 4	4	15	− 11
	Local authorities	4	32	− 28	3	20	−16	7	50	− 43
	Others[2]	8	12	− 4	27	44	−17	35	57	− 22
	Total	786	786	—	180	180	—	967	967	—
Nov 1975	Persons	718	833	−114	51	47	4	769	880	−110
	Property companies	131	13	118	42	26	16	173	39	134
	Other companies	6	5	1	27	23	4	33	27	6
	Unclassified companies	5	2	3	7	2	5	13	4	9
	Local authorities	5	17	− 12	3	16	−13	8	33	− 25
	Others[2]	13	9	4	27	43	−16	40	53	− 13
	Total	879	879	—	156	156	—	1,035	1,035	—
Nov 1976	Persons	829	974	−145	61	55	6	890	1,029	−138
	Property companies	145	17	128	65	35	30	210	52	158
	Other companies	9	6	3	27	29	− 2	35	35	—
	Unclassified companies	13	5	8	5	10	− 5	18	16	2
	Local authorities	10	14	− 4	5	16	−12	14	30	− 16
	Others[2]	15	5	11	31	48	−17	46	53	− 7
	Total	1,021	1,021	—	194	194	—	1,214	1,214	—

Note: Components may not add precisely to totals because of rounding. *Source: Survey data*

[1] Including multiple transactions.
[2] Including central government, nationalised industries, banks and insurance companies.

Almost all the sales of residential property by persons went to other persons whereas up to about one-fifth of their purchases came from other sectors. Overall, net purchases by persons increased in the four survey months successively from £30 million to £90 million, to £110 million and finally to £140 million.

In the first of the four surveys about one-fifth of company sales and purchases were by 'unclassified companies', ie they could not be classified between 'property' companies and 'builders' and 'other companies' For subsequent surveys this residual was reduced to less than 10 per cent. Nearly all company transactions in residential property were by property companies and builders. From October 1974 onwards about 60 per cent of company sales of non-residential property were by property companies and buiders whilst purchases were more evenly split. Sales and purchases of non-residential property by 'other' companies tended to be about equal.

In all four surveys a large proportion of the transactions by banks and insurance companies was in cases over £100,000. Because such transactions are relatively few and vary considerably in value, estimates from surveys covering single weeks are subject to considerable sampling error and may not give a very accurate picture of the activity of these institutions. The new series covering all cases over £100,000 should overcome this difficulty.

Estimates of value of sales based upon stamp duty data

By grossing up the monthly receipts of stamp duty on sales of land and buildings by the reciprocals of the rates of duty, corresponding figures of the value of dutiable sales are obtained; separate figures are available for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Estimates of non-dutiable sales in England and Wales are obtained by a combination of data on the number of documents submitted each month (the total of dutiable and non-dutiable sales) and survey data. A more detailed description of the methodology was given in *Economic Trends* for September 1976.

Table 4 provides, for England and Wales,

Chart 3 Value of sales of land and buildings in England and Wales

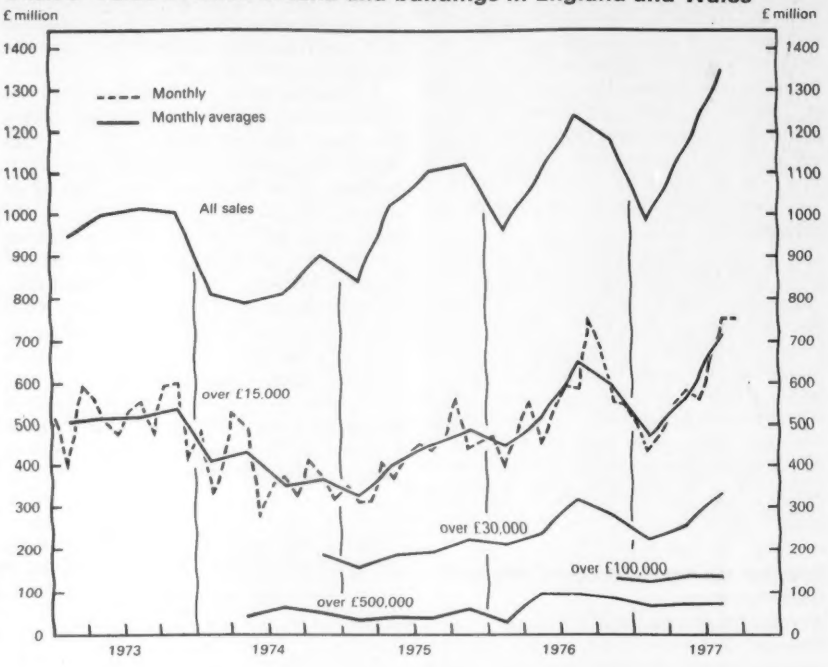


Chart 4 Value of sales of land and buildings in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

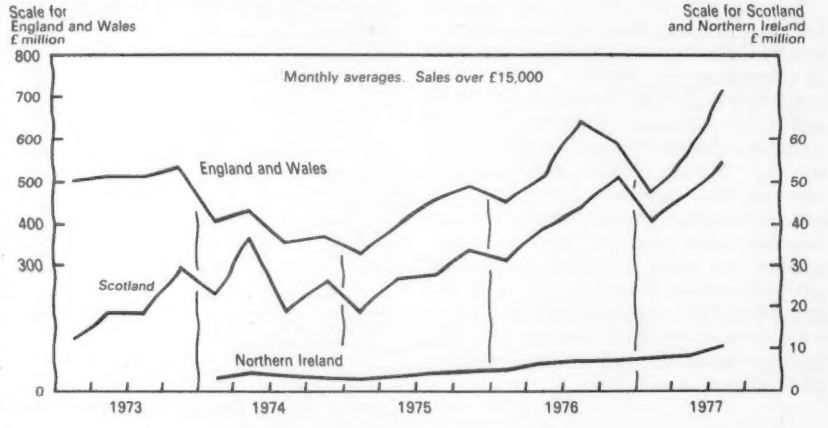


Table 4 Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales, by broad price range

£ thousand million

	Below £15,000	£15,000 to £30,000	Above £30,000	Total
1973	5·72	6·20		11·92
1974	5·25	4·68		9·93
1975	7·27	2·73	2·27	12·27
1976	6·83	3·44	3·14	13·41
1973 1	1·36	1·50		2·86
2	1·46	1·54		3·00
3	1·50	1·55		3·05
4	1·40	1·61		3·01
1974 1	1·21	1·22		2·43
2	1·07	1·29		2·36
3	1·37	1·06		2·43
4	1·60	0·56	0·55	2·70
1975 1	1·55	0·51	0·47	2·53
2	1·87	0·65	0·55	3·07
3	1·95	0·79	0·57	3·31
4	1·90	0·79	0·67	3·36
1976 1	1·55	0·70	0·64	2·89
2	1·72	0·82	0·72	3·26
3	1·78	0·98	0·95	3·71
4	1·78	0·93	0·84	3·54
1977 1	1·54	0·75	0·67	2·95
2	1·77	0·91	0·77	3·45
3	1·88	1·15	1·00	4·03

Note: Components may not add precisely to totals because of rounding.
Source: Stamp duty data
Statistics of numbers of conveyances.

Table 5 Sales of land and buildings in England and Wales: analysis of large cases

£ million

	£100,000–£500,000				£500,000 and over				£100,000 and over			
	Residential[1]	Land[2]	Commercial	All properties	Residential[1]	Land[2]	Commercial	All properties	Residential[1]	Land[2]	Commercial	All properties
1974 2					6[3]	43[3]	70[3]	118[3]				
3					31		149	180				
4					32	40	69	141				
1975 1					27		73	100				
2					6	39	71	117				
3					4	15	91	110				
4					—	39	133	172				
1976 1					29		49	78				
2					8	70	207	285				
3					4	29	253	286				
4	98[4]		66[4]	164[4]	30		217	246	29	98	283	410
1977 1	26	71	85	181	8	40	141	189	34	111	226	370
2	27	90	93	210	8	29	165	203	35	119	258	413
3	95		105	200	42		165	207	37	99	270	406
Financial year:												
1974/75					38	139	360	539				
1975/76					10	120	338	470				
1976/77					20	169	818	1,006				

Note: Components may not add precisely to totals due to rounding. *Source: Statistics of large cases*
[1] Including multiple transactions. [2] Agricultural land, with or without buildings, and other land without buildings.
[3] May and June figures grossed up to the quarter. [4] November and December figures grossed up to the quarter.

quarterly estimates for transactions below and above £15,000 (and also for those above £30,000 since the fourth quarter of 1974).

The *Economic Trends* article gives monthly estimates of the value of sales over £15,000 for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These results are illustrated on charts 3 and 4. The series above £30,000 reflects mainly non-residential property whilst those below reflect mainly residential.

Chart 3 demonstrates the fall in activity in England and Wales which followed the high level of 1973. This low level of activity continued into the second half of 1974. During 1975 and the first half of 1976 sales rose gradually, partly because of rising house prices but also because of a gentle uplift in non-residential transactions. There was then a big rise in the third quarter of 1976 and by the third quarter of 1977 the monetary value of sales had risen to a new peak. Another feature is that each year the value of sales was lower in the first quarter than in the preceding fourth quarter.

Analysis of large cases in England and Wales

Since May 1974 comprehensive data have been available on all cases of £500,000 and over, and from November 1976 this information was extended to cover all cases of £100,000 and over. Broad trends of values are shown in table 5.

Table 5 shows, as might be expected, that the figures for large cases above £500,000 are very variable. By comparison with the October 1973 survey it would seem that activity in large cases was low throughout 1974 and 1975, falling to its lowest level in the first quarter of 1976. There was then a very steep increase and activity remained at a high level during the rest of 1976 but fell somewhat in 1977. The decline in the value of sales in the first quarter of each year compared with the fourth quarter of the preceding year was also evident in this series. For transactions in the range £100,000 to £500,000, there was a steadily rising value of sales due almost entirely to sales of non-residential properties.

In the fourth quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of 1977 a significant proportion of sales over £100,000 was concentrated in the Greater London area, followed by the rest of the south-east, so that together they accounted for two-thirds of the total. This applied to all types of property, but in the case of land, the south-east outside Greater London was the most active region and there was a fairly wide spread otherwise.

Over 40 per cent of all sales over £100,000 were by property companies, but less than a quarter of the purchases. Other companies accounted for about 20 per cent of both sales and purchases. A large proportion of the remaining transactions was by insurance companies and building societies.

Inquiries: 01-438 6428

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, LondonSW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO

Effects of taxes and benefits on household income in 1976

How incomes of different types of households are affected by government expenditure on health, education, cash benefits and consumer subsidies, and by the taxes they pay to finance it, is discussed in an article in the February issue of *Economic Trends*.

The study shows that an average household in 1976 with two adults and one to four children, with an average original income (that is before any payment of taxes or receipt of cash benefits) of around £4,500, would have paid £905 in income tax and national insurance contributions, but received back an average of £202 in cash benefits, leaving a 'disposable income' of about £3,800.

Average disposable income for this type of household rose 106 per cent between 1971 and 1976 but this does not reflect a rise in living standards of that extent: prices also rose during the period – by 97 per cent.

Out of its disposable income, this household would have paid £792 in indirect taxes – vat, drink and tobacco duty, local rates, etc. But it is calculated that it would have received benefits such as food and housing subsidies, education and health services costing £923.

Compared with 1971, original income for an average household in this category rose 119 per cent while direct taxes rose 186 per cent and indirect taxes 99 per cent. However, the average of all benefits – cash, subsidies and benefits in kind – was 170 per cent higher in 1976, with the result that income after all taxes and benefits increased by 123 per cent, slightly more than the increase in original income.

Average household in category with 2 adults and 1-4 children. £

	1971	1976
Original income	2 053	4 491
Direct taxes	316	905
Direct cash benefits		
Family allowance	45	71
Unemployment/sickness/ injury benefit	23	54
Other	31	77
Disposable income	1 836	3 788
Indirect benefits		
Housing and food subsidies	16	103
Indirect taxes (local rates, VAT, duty, etc)	398	792
Direct benefits in kind		
Education	184	480
National Health Service	106	304
Welfare foods	11	36
Income after all taxes and benefits	1 755	3 919

Note: The cost of a large number of public benefits such as parks, libraries, refuse collection, police, fire services, defence etc is not included in this study because it cannot at present be allocated satisfactorily to individual types of households.

Effects of different taxes and benefits

The major influences in this redistribution of income are the payment of direct taxes and the receipt of cash benefits but the combined effects of subsidies and indirect taxes are also important. The receipt of benefits in kind from the social services, such as health and education, is related more to circumstances such as household size and composition than income.

The report shows how income is redistributed, particularly through direct taxes and cash benefits, from working to non-working households and also from working households with high incomes to those with fewer workers and lower incomes. As income rises so does the number of workers per household, while the average number of their dependents falls. Owing to the progressive form of the income tax system payments of direct taxes rise faster than income.

Main features of redistribution between groups

The more detailed picture of income redistribution, when looking at different types of households at different levels of income, is very complex. However, some features emerge from the report. The main beneficiaries of cash benefits are retired households. (More than half of all cash benefits distributed to households are in the form of retirement and old age pensions.) The average two adult retired household in 1976 had an original income of £949 but received in addition some £1,269 in cash benefits, of which £1,088 was retirement and old age pensions. Cash benefits are also distributed to a significant extent to low income groups of each household type. For instance, in the two adult 1-4 children category the 10 per cent of households with the lowest original incomes had their incomes increased, on average, by more than 50 per cent by cash benefits, although naturally there was a wide variation in the degree of dependence on cash benefits even amongst this lowest 10 per cent. Indeed, the distribution of the whole system of benefits has a great impact on these low income groups of all household types because of their small original incomes and the small amounts of tax they pay. Households with children at all income levels receive significant amounts of subsidies and health and education benefits since children are relatively large consumers of these services.

Another expected feature is that tax payments are largest for non-retired households without children, particularly those with the highest incomes, direct taxes taking nearly 29 per cent of original income from the top 10 per cent of two adult non-retired households, though households with children also pay relatively large amounts.

During the period 1971 to 1976 the main forms of income redistribution did not change. However, economic considerations and changes in the structure of the population have led to some changes in emphasis. For example, the general level of direct taxes increased more than the growth in original incomes (160 per cent as against 110 per cent for all households), although the lowest income groups with little original income were virtually unaffected. The average level of benefit from food and housing subsidies increased more than five-fold during the period, reflecting an attempt to shield the poor from the effects of inflation. The increase in the proportion of retired households in the population resulted in very large increases in cash benefits paid as retirement pensions.

Index of retail prices for February

The index of retail prices for all items for 14 February was 190.6 (15 January 1974 = 100) – an increase of 0.6 per cent on January 1978 (189.5) and of 9.5 per cent on February 1977 (174.1).

The rise in the index in February was due mainly to increases in motoring costs and in the prices of clothing, alcoholic drinks and some foods; these increases were partially offset by a reduction in the level of mortgage interest payments made by owner-occupiers.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in table 2.

Inquiries: Watford 28500 ext. 630.

Table 2 Index of retail prices: commodity breakdown

	Indices (15 Jan 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	17 Jan 1978	14 Feb 1978	
All items	189.5	190.6	+0.6
All items excluding food	187.6	188.8	+0.6
Food	196.1	197.3	+0.6
Seasonal food	173.9	174.5	+0.3
Other food	200.4	201.7	+0.6
Alcoholic drink	188.9	191.0	+1.1
Tobacco	222.8	222.8	+0.0
Housing	164.3	162.1	−1.3
Fuel and light	219.9	221.1	+0.5
Durable household goods	175.2	177.1	+1.1
Clothing and footwear	163.6	167.1	+2.1
Transport and vehicles	198.7	201.1	+1.2
Miscellaneous goods	198.6	199.8	+0.6
Services	186.6	187.7	+0.6
Meals out	199.5	200.6	+0.6

Table 1 Index of retail prices

	All items				All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over			Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over	
		1 month	6 months	12 months		1 month	6 months
1977							
September	185.7	+0.5	+5.6	+15.6	186.2	+0.7	+6.8
October	186.5	+0.4	+3.4	+14.1	187.3	+0.6	+4.8
November	187.4	+0.5	+3.1	+13.0	188.2	+0.5	+4.3
December	188.4	+0.5	+2.6	+12.1	189.0	+0.4	+3.6
1978							
January	189.5	+0.6	+3.1	+9.9	190.2	+0.6	+3.7
February	190.6	+0.6	+3.2	+9.5	191.4	+0.6	+3.5

Falling inflation points to more jobs: Maclennan

Falling inflation points to growth in job opportunities, said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when speaking to the Scottish Consumer Council in Glasgow on 17 March.

'The continuing fall month by month in the rate of inflation offers the real prospect of a corresponding expansion in the economy', he said. 'The steadying of price levels gives us all the assurance that our income and standard of living will not be eaten away, but it also holds out the real expectation of a growth in job opportunities. Indeed, to beat inflation is the only way to secure employment on a lasting basis in this country. The control of inflation will allow us to expand our domestic demand without the risk of the pound coming under attack again. If we can also improve our industrial productivity, this not only reinforces the improvement in our inflation rates, but also enables us to compete more effectively in foreign markets. We shall thus be able not only to sell more British goods abroad, but to afford to buy more British goods at home.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in April

Information in this table is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in April 1978. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date and series	Method of release	Source
4 Tues		
Retail sales (Feb – final)	PN	Department of Trade
UK official reserves (Mar)	PN	HM Treasury
Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of March	PN	Bank of England
UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Mar)		
London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Mar)	PN	CLCB
Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Feb)	PN	Department of Trade
5 Wed		
Housing starts and completions (Feb)	PN	Department of the Environment
7 Fri		
National income and expenditure in the fourth quarter and year 1977	PN	CSO
10 Mon		
CBI Monthly Trends Inquiry (Mar)	PN	CBI
Wholesale price index numbers (Mar – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
11 Tues		
Provisional figures of vehicle production (Mar)	PN	Department of Industry
12 Wed		
Central Government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Mar)	PN	HM Treasury
13 Thurs		
UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Mar)	PN	Bank of England
London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Mar)	PN	Bank of England
14 Fri		
Usable steel production (Mar)	PN	BSC/BISPA
Retail prices index (Mar)	PN	Department of Employment
Index of industrial production (Feb – prov)	PN	CSO
Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Mar)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
Building Societies' receipts and loans (Mar)	PN	BSA
17 Mon		
Retail sales (Mar – prov)	PN	Department of Trade
19 Wed		
Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Mar)	PN	Department of Employment
Monthly index of average earnings (Feb)		
Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Mar)	PN	CSO
20 Thur		
Consumer's expenditure (1st qtr – 1st preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
Construction – new orders (Feb)	PN	Department of the Environment
21 Fri		
Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Jan)	*Trade and Industry*	Department of Industry
New vehicle registrations (Mar)	PN	Department of Transport
Financial accounts of industrial and commercial companies and personal sectors (4th qtr)	PN	CSO
Net acquisition of financial assets – analysis by sector (4th qtr)		
23 Sun		
Department for National Savings' monthly progress report (Mar)	PN	Department for National Savings
25 Tues		
Unemployment (Apr – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
Unfilled vacancies (Apr – prov)		
Bricks and cement production (Mar)	PN	Department of the Environment
27 Thur		
Unemployment (Mar – final)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Employment in the production industries (Feb)		
Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Feb)		
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Mar)		
Quarterly estimates of employees in employment (Dec)		
Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy
Car and commercial vehicle production (Mar – final)	PN	Department of Industry

PN Press notice.

Publication of British Film Fund distributions?

The Department of Trade and the British Film Fund Agency are considering a proposal that there should be regular periodical publication of distributions by the British Film Fund Agency probably showing:

- ☐ the title of films benefiting from these distributions; and
- ☐ the payments in respect of each film in the period under review.

If such a proposal were to be accepted, publication of provisional figures would be at four or five weekly intervals with final figures being published after the final distribution for each levy year had been made. Publication would apply only to earnings after inception of the new policy and not to earnings in earlier periods and would be likely to relate to distributions from the beginning of an Eady year (September).

The Department of Trade and the British Film Fund Agency would welcome any comments on this proposal which should be sent to: Department of Trade, PTFD Division, Films Branch (Room 455), Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 17 March 1978.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Wombling Free	BR/E 39519/19/3/83	96	17 March	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Q Film Productions Ltd
Movietone News 2545	BR/E 39393/19/3/83	8	17 March	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
FOREIGN					
The Young Tycoon	F/39517	88	14 March	Oppidan Entertainments Ltd	GD Films, Athens
Malpertuis	F 39518	95	15 March	Supreme Film Distributors Ltd	Les Productions Artistes, Paris

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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